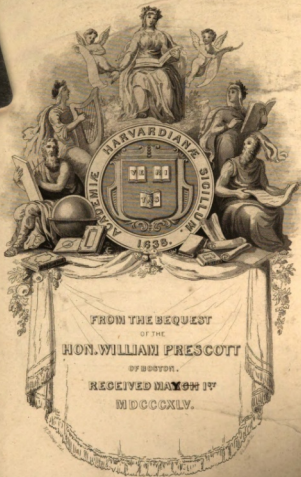


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THE

JAMAICA

PLANTER'S GUIDE;

OR,

A SYSTEM FOR PLANTING AND MANAGING

A

SUGAR ESTATE,

OR OTHER PLANTATIONS IN THAT ISLAND,

AND THROUGHOUT

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES

IN GENERAL.

ILLUSTRATED WITH INTERESTING ANECDOTES.

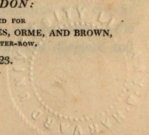
By THOMAS ROUGHLEY,
NEARLY TWENTY YEARS A SUGAR PLANTER IN JAMAICA.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR

LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN,
PATERNOSTER-ROW,

1823.



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THE

JAMAICA

Rec^d May 1. 1845

PLANTER'S GUIDE;

Bought with the Acquiescence of the
Hon^{ble} Wm Prescott, of Boston

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1827.

PREFACE.

At any period, but more especially the present, when Jamaica and West India produce is so much depreciated, and the heavy expenses attending the cultivation of the land, and the manufacture of its produce; together with the capital laid out in the establishment of a plantation, and its annual disbursements, is considered, a system of practical cultivation, combined with proper economy, will, it is presumed, be readily adopted by every proprietor. An attention to such a plan will doubtless appear necessary in all cases of the non-residence of the owners, and where the management of estates is intrusted to agents. Many circumstances may concur to render such care indispensable — the failure of crops, the unusual decrease and

loss of slaves and stock, the exhaustion of land, inadequate and trifling returns by shipments or sales, a consequent diminution of capital, and the inevitable alternative (after many years of toil and anxious hope) of borrowing money by mortgaging his estate, to sustain his credit. To these contingencies may be added law charges, interest of money, and per centage to agents; and at last a consignment of the produce to a mortgagee, or putting him in possession of the estate, thus perhaps blighting his prospects for ever.

The author of this work has spent many years in the Island of Jamaica, in the occupation of a planter, and in the management of several estates, principally in the north side of that productive, delightful island. His knowledge of the prevailing system of culture has been matured by experience, and he has, he trusts, discovered some of those errors which have occasioned both expense and failure. He has therefore ventured to arrange such a method of

plantership (especially for the sugar department) as is best adapted, not for Jamaica alone, but for the West India islands in general. He has introduced some useful, comprehensive, and beneficial modifications, which he doubts not will be conducive to the interests of the proprietors. He presumes that such a plan will meet with the approbation, countenance, and support of the independent, non-resident owners of land, and capitalists, and all who are interested in the welfare of that species of property. He has endeavoured to make it simple and of easy acquisition, particularly so to the beginner; yet, he trusts, of equal value to the old practitioner. In the work he has also inserted some interesting anecdotes founded on facts, which have either fallen under his own observation, or been received from credible testimony. He trusts that his work will be found by the impartial and unbiassed of general utility, and that it will therefore meet with approbation.

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THE
JAMAICA

PLANTER'S GUIDE,

CHAP. I.

OF PLANTATION ATTORNEYS OR AGENTS.

IN treating of the management and cultivation of a sugar estate in the island of Jamaica, it will be necessary to take into consideration a great variety of subjects, and to reduce them into such a system as will enable the speculator to approve and adopt it, and the practitioner to understand and realise it. The plan here offered to public attention is intended to unite proper economy in every branch, with such requisites as may ensure (under the blessing of Providence) a suitable return from the land, and yield the proprietor a reasonable and adequate compensation for the employ-

ment of his capital. The first and principal object to be contemplated is, the course which is at present followed in the island of Jamaica, with respect to the treatment of slaves and stock, the culture of the land, the manufacture of sugar and rum, and the necessary and unavoidable expenses connected with its produce. An accurate view of these subjects will determine, whether improvement and retrenchment may generally and successfully be attempted. If this should be found the result of the investigation, an increase of the crops, the preservation of the capital, the improvement of the quality and quantity of sugar and rum, may be obtained; the comfort of the slaves, the food and care of the live stock, and the good order of the buildings and manufacturing utensils may be secured; the shipment of the produce in proper condition, with little reduction of value for repacking or ullage, and the disposal of the whole in as speedy a manner as possible, to the advantage and satisfaction

of the proprietor, without diminishing the salary or happiness of the white people resident on the estate, may be expected.

The author of this treatise disclaims all idea of personal reflection, though it is possible that some may invidiously conjecture this to have been his intention. If, indeed, by any recital he has made, it should appear that any abuses are found to exist, the representation is given as growing out of a system of management which has for many years been adopted in Jamaica — a system tenaciously retained by the old planters; patronised by the new; and become so formidable by long use and custom, as scarcely to admit of innovation or improvement. Useful modification too often, therefore, is condemned with sarcasm and ridicule.

The person styled in Jamaica, and the West Indies in general, by the planters, an Attorney, is so important an object in the detail of plantership, that I should be grossly deficient in describing the old customs and

habits of those islands, if some account was not given of him. These officers were first appointed there in consequence of the absence of the proprietors. This malady became so epidemical as to affect and carry off from Jamaica seven eighths of the landed interest, substituting in their place, during their absence, some gentleman of their acquaintance, or a person recommended to them, to conduct the business of the plantation. The enjoyments which the mother country affords, its elegancies and refinements, frequently became so alluring, as to induce a protracted continuance in it. Their affairs in the West Indies were, therefore, necessarily confided to the management of an agent or attorney, resident on or near the estate, who acted according to his own discretion and pleasure. Some gentlemen of this class possessed only a slight knowledge of plantership, and others none at all. But being armed with despotic power, they became the ruling agents in the affairs they were intrusted with; and

enjoying an extensive connection with mercantile men in the islands in general, and the parent country, they were looked up to with reverential awe by the overseers and book-keepers. Sometimes they paid a casual visit to the estates over which they presided, with lordly pomp. This, however, was seldom done oftener than once a-year, and the plantations were governed without being actually inspected. Persons of merit were frequently discharged from their stations without sufficient cause, and others employed instead of them, of whose qualifications they were ignorant. Plans were formed, from the adoption of which, prolific crops were anticipated. But the fairest prospects were sometimes made to vanish by an arbitrary stroke of the pen, so that happy results and promised returns yielded to the destructive consequences of ill-concerted schemes. Such conduct was more the effect of malignant caprice, than the solicitous effects of honourable intentions, for promoting the welfare and in-

terest of the proprietors. These were the primary causes of the failure of the crops, and the springs from which all the subsequent evils flowed, — “the very head and front of the offending.” This occasioned the spreading the cane cultivation over an immense tract of land, instead of keeping up the stamina of the old grounds. The cattle and mules were overworked, or suffered to grow too old without being replaced by younger beasts. Hence a great loss was sustained: the introduction of endless jobbing: the eating up of the crops by divers island disbursements, which might have been avoided or diminished: and the immense supplies sent out by home merchants, a great part of which were left to rot, or were buried at the wharf. The sugar and rum were suffered to remain too long on the estate or barquadier without shipping, requiring sometimes one quarter to make up loss by ullage. These gross errors are solely the fault of the resident attorney, arising from his connivance or

ignorance. The consequences, however, of this misconduct, and of these improprieties, fall on the owner of the estate, obliging him to borrow money, not only for his own support, but to pay off the debts of his ill-managed and unproductive land. I would not indeed assert, that in the island of Jamaica in particular, no gentlemen are to be found, properly qualified by nature or education, to render, as planting attorneys, the most excellent, durable, and beneficial services to those who employ them. There are many who are fully adequate to discharge such a trust. Governed by honourable motives, and assiduously employing their cultivated talents, by persevering industry, they secure the welfare of their constituents; and actuated by humane and liberal principles, they extend the advantages they obtain, to all who are dependent upon them. The major part, or five sixths of this class of representatives, are men who are engrossed by their own interested speculations, attentive to what

will promote their own selfish views, making every other object within their grasp subservient to their ambition. Though perhaps they are too ignorant to be planters, they are too ostentatious, proud, and supine, to contribute to the good of their constituents. Nor is it the least of their defects that they clandestinely prefer the interest of a mortgagee or affluent merchant, (who may possibly have some secret design upon the estate) to that of the owner. This is sometimes done, because such a mortgagee or merchant, becoming powerfully connected in the island, may be the means not only of continuing the attorney in his agency, but of advancing his influence, authority, and wealth, by procuring for him commissions for the management of other estates. By this means, a fruitful West India island is converted into a devastated mortgage. Sometimes it happens that the attorney, consulting his pleasure, fixes his residence on one of the estates of his constituents, with far greater regard to

save expense to himself, than his absent employer. He looks about for a healthy eligible situation; a large house well furnished; sensible, clean, handsome slaves as servants; grounds delightful and pleasing to his eye; a flower garden to refresh his weary senses; a kitchen garden to furnish his table; but, above all, where small stock are numerous and thriving, that he may have an abundant supply for his own consumption without expense. He cultivates luxuriant grass pieces, and corn for his horses and cattle, without any deduction from his per centage on the sale of the crops. Thus his establishment is secretly, and with mercenary meanness, supported: the proprietor of the estate in this manner contributing to his aggrandisement. The contribution thus levied, is not less, considering all circumstances, than 700*l.* a year. What, however, is still more surprising, is, that this very person, who thus reposes upon the substance of his constituents, in superabundant plenty, very

often does not know the limits of the estate he is empowered to manage, or even a cane piece within a musket shot of the house he inhabits. He cannot tell whether it is attached to that or any other property. The poor overseer, dependent on his will, is in constant jeopardy, and his mind frequently thereby estranged from the proper duties of his station. If any deficiency is discovered in the supplies required for the house or retinue of the attorney, he is reprovved by harsh notes, and suppositious faults are imputed to him. Whether an ample crop has been taken off, and a promising one is advancing, with little loss of slaves and stock (the true criterion of good management) signifies little. This meritorious, industrious servant, is discharged, and his place filled up with perhaps an obsequious novice.

Some proprietors of West India estates are so profuse, or rather overcareful of their property, as to suppose that their advantage is not sufficiently attended to,

unless they have two guardians on the spot; one termed the planting attorney, the other the commissary, factor, or mercantile attorney. Each of these receives a commission of five per cent. on all sales or net proceeds. These two persons frequently pursue a separate interest, and clash with each other. They profess to discover blunders or abuses in their different departments, and so greatly confuse the general affairs of the estate, by their mutual variance and opposition, that the ordinary and requisite materials and business of the plantation is neglected. Their personal interest being separate, they conspire to supplant each other, at the risk or even ruin of the proprietor. It often happens that the power of these men is so peculiarly vested, that under particular circumstances they can appoint each other to office: either the planting attorney appointing the factor, or, on the contrary, the factor nominating the planting agent. In such cases, the disease is equally mortal to

the owner. For one of these persons predominating over the other, of course, orders, dictates to, and rules the other. The merchant will enlarge the prospects, and contribute to the interest of the planting agent, from motives of gratitude to his benefactor, the planting agent; he will ship round and consign to the factor, a great part of the produce of the estate, instead of sending it home. In the place of this the superabundant supplies, and a quantity of worthless lumber, and salt provisions, are transmitted back. This abuse of the trust reposed in them is ruinous to the estate. By this means, a great part of the crop becomes as it were sequestered; destruction is added to defalcation. The property which is disposed of in this manner is converted into bills of exchange. These are sold at a high premium, though they virtually and intrinsically belong to the land owner. By this twofold stratagem, designed to fill the coffers of the agents, a great portion of the produce of

Jamaica is sold in Kingston, either by private contract or by auction, in as summary a manner as possible, to make quick returns to the factor. By these methods he becomes the proprietor of it at a cheap rate, which is indeed the object he had in view throughout the whole of his transactions.

Some short-sighted people may, perhaps, indulge the idea that it is contrary to the interest of the acting attorney to be influenced by principles, and to pursue measures contrary and detrimental to his constituent. I will indeed allow that honourable motives, and views characterised by integrity, should predominate with every man so entrusted, and whose connections enable him to promote the welfare of his employer: and that if the agent is ignorant of plantership, he should decline the office; or if he feels himself competent to the task, he should discharge it with faithful assiduity: but whoever forms this honourable view of the subject has seldom, or

possibly never enquired into the cause of the absence of the proprietor, or traced the source from whence the power of the attorney is derived, nor has he properly considered the sordid and selfish views of these agents. When a mortgagee finds an unfortunate proprietor embarrassed and in trammels, he has immediately an interest of his own to secure, and appoints an agent who will be subservient to his purpose. A letter, enigmatically expressed, but well understood by the resident agent, is despatched to him. The list of supplies is augmented; the ordinary expenses are increased to double or treble the former amount; the interest of borrowed money accumulates; the crops are diminished; shipments are delayed, by which great loss is sustained, though affectedly deplored; an overseer, indifferent as to events or results, not only suffered to remain on the estate to manage it, but frequently encouraged in his misconduct; the mortgage is foreclosed, or a decree in chancery issued

for the sale of the estate, which is disposed of for a trifling consideration to some person employed to purchase it for the mortgagee or attorney. Such circumstances account, in part, at least, for the conduct of some of the planting attorneys in not consulting, as they ought, the advantage of those who employ them, and who are originally the owners of the land. Having thus gained the confidence of the mortgagee, by betraying the interest of the proprietor, and rendered the former this service of spoliation, he obtains powers to act for others, and both his celebrity and his fortune are established. In confirmation of this, I shall here relate an instance which occurred some years ago in Jamaica. In the mountainous parts of the parish of Clarendon there was an estate much diversified by hills. Though apparently unpromising, yet by laying out and making roads of easy ascent, at a great expense indeed, the proprietor found he could convert it into a valuable plantation, it being

of great extent and the quality of the land good. A convenient place was chosen on which to erect a set of works. These were constructed upon a large scale. A numerous gang of effective negroes, and an adequate quantity of cattle and mules were provided. The estate yielded great crops. Six hundred hogsheads of sugar, of good quality, were obtained from it. But it so happened that in the commencement of these operations a sum of money was borrowed to forward the undertaking. Large supplies of heavy articles became necessary; this, with accumulating interest on the money at first borrowed, soon created embarrassment. The merchant who had furnished the supply of money and goods became impatient for payment, before the crops could be disposed of to reimburse him. He knew there was a large capital that could be laid hold of, and therefore commenced a suit in chancery against the property. This is the mode generally adopted to wrest the possession of land from the

owners in this island. The accounts on both sides were obliged to undergo the revision of a Master in Chancery. Large deductions were made from the value of the estate, by the expenses of the suit in question. Years rolled on in this civil warfare, constantly swelling the account. Every year fresh examinations were made for the Master in Chancery. The decree was at last given in favour of the plaintiff, allowing him all his costs. During the whole of the time a receiver was appointed by the Master in Chancery. In such cases it has happened that the plaintiff was on friendly terms with the Master, in consequence of which the original overseer has been exchanged for one more subservient to the views of the plaintiff. The supplies are not diminished, though the estate is declining in its produce. The works are suffered to fall into decay. The negroes assume a poor, weakly appearance. Every thing sinks in value. Preparatory to the sale of the estate in question, an estimate

was made by appraisement of the negroes, the stock, the land, and the works. This was produced on the day of sale, and the estate was disposed of, with every thing belonging to it, for half or one third of its real price. The amount was just as much as would pay the plaintiff his demand and costs of suit. Thus a final period was put to the fortune and hopes of the unfortunate proprietor. Thus was realized the scheme of the new owner, who was well acquainted with the real value of the estate, and the crisis of its doom. He was desirous of calling it his own, though at the expense of every thing honourable and just. An illicit trafficker from a distant northern climate, he seized with avidity the lucky moment for the enterprize, no one being present who could advance so large a sum as the purchase-money but himself. He had a trusty agent present on the day of sale, to prevent the possibility of losing such a bargain, and to render the purchase for himself certain. In a short time, however, after this event,

the disposition of every thing on the estate was altered. The negroes, the stock, and works were restored to their former good state and appearance, at a trifling expense; and a steady annual crop of from five to seven hundred hogsheads of sugar annually, were obtained from the land thus unjustly transferred from its first rightful proprietor, to the oppressing hand of the artful and enterprising mortgagee.

I now come to consider this subject in another point of view. When the proprietor has little or no knowledge of the agent he appoints, further than by recommendation, perhaps seldom or ever visiting the island or his estate, he understands little of the resources it possesses, or the culture it requires. He does not know whether the person whom he deputed ever was on the plantation or even that part of the island; whether he had either seen or knew how to plant and bring a cane to maturity. But unwilling to risk a voyage at sea, still less to hazard the danger of tropical sickness, he rests satis-

fied for some time, that the affairs of his estate are going on well, under the wise, provident care of his planting attorney. The arrival, after the lapse of a few months, or the termination of a crop or two, of the sad unpleasant news, that there is a deficiency of produce, and the formal crop account, announcing a defalcation of one third of what was naturally expected, undeceives him. At the same time, he is informed, in order to make up such defalcation in future, that there is an absolute necessity to put in such a quantity of land, with the aid of a jobber. He must pay such jobber in rum at cash price: other contingencies demand the produce of the rum crop to defray them. Thus commences a train of disbursements, having for their foundation, fabricated evils and false representations, solely for the purpose of shielding from the proprietor's knowledge the gross fraud of bad and dilapidating management. Such planting attorneys as these generally have independent fortunes

in the island. Careless of such events, yet greedy of gain, they continue in power for a crop or two, satisfied with their being paid their per centage, and regardless whether the estate thrives, which they have thrown back for years as to adequate returns. A new agent is appointed, a new overseer put in charge, fresh plans are adopted; and this independent attorney, after having sown the seeds of destruction, enquires at some future period how such an estate goes on, and being informed of its miserable returns, vaunts, that if it had been left to his care and management, the result would have been otherwise. Many of these men have a curious satirical vein running through their dispositions. For if their successors, with the persons whom they employ, do their duty, bring the estate from a wretched, ruined condition to prosperous thriving cultivation, regularly and steadily extending its produce, instead of the former pernicious confusion; if they procure orderly respectful demeanour in the slaves,

instead of idleness and arrogance ; if their appearance is decent and becoming, exhibiting in their persons comfort and cleanliness, instead of disgusting filthiness, disease and aversion to their proper occupations ; if the cattle is preserved by good feeding, with few sores, or deep, morbid, putrid distempers ; if the subordinate white people are attentive to their business, steady, sober, and quietly disposed, making the business and welfare of the estate their pleasure, instead of riotously galloping on horseback about the country, imbibing and entailing on themselves by excess the sure consequences of early distempers, which generally prove fatal ; this exhibition of what is right and proper, instead of being treated with panegyric, is made, through every medium of ridicule, envy, and detraction, to appear in an invidious, morose, cruel, coercive, and inhospitable point of view. It would be in vain that such people strove to gain their favour : in vain would they solicit employment from them :

they would be left contemned and neglected, while the profligate, vicious, abandoned, and worthless, would find employment and support. Such men indulge their desires, lead an idle and dissipated life, and leave the essential business of the estate, to the venal management of head people, whom they satisfy with an extra weekly allowance from the rum and provision store. But what gives such overseers a stronger claim to the patronage of their employer or attorney, is the loan of whatever money they may have saved, either from their salaries or as owners of jobbing gangs. This hides a multitude of faults; this smooths the road to preferment; this rivets the lasting good opinion of the patron; changes his vices into virtues; prevents every effort for the preservation of the estate; converts the cane and grass pieces into ruined heaps; the well disposed negroes into runaways; the cattle into carrion; the works and manufacturing houses into

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wretched, unroofed walls, and the proprietor into an insolvent.

An attorney of this description will sometimes live in some remote parish in the island, seldom visiting the estate he is commissioned to manage. This he does indeed when he formally takes possession of it. Every communication is carried on between him and the overseer by letter, or expresses by the negroes, on estate mules; or else the overseer is ordered to ride over to him, perhaps seventy or an hundred miles, to arrange accounts and future plans. This is a pleasurable excursion for the overseer, sometimes, and is made to last a fortnight. The natural inclination of man is alive to pleasure, to aversion of control, to hatred of minute enquiry into particulars which may be pregnant with error or vice, to dislike of restraint or control. Such an employer is therefore much approved of by a majority of people throughout the West India Islands, as giving little trouble or disturbance by his presence, or dictating

orders. Whatever is required is granted ; whatever is neglected is overlooked. The overseer becomes absolute and prosperous in his affairs. He employs and discharges his book-keepers at pleasure ; gives lucrative jobs to favourite tradesmen, and in a short time acquires the name of a generous, good man — one to be looked up to ; in short, he obtains the character of a good planter, although the head driver manages every thing on the estate. I have known one of these overseers, who lived more than six years upon an excellent estate in the parish of St. Mary's, in Jamaica, who did not understand the boundaries of it ; and when the proprietor unexpectedly came, and expressed a wish to see and go over the lines of it, was obliged to declare his total ignorance of its limits, as he never had seen them. These the proprietor himself went to and showed him, although he had been absent near twenty years from the estate. The land had been despoiled of its valuable wood by the neighbours, and great part

taken up and cultivated in negro provisions, by the slaves of other plantations, in consequence of the supineness of the acting island agent.

It may be argued, that scarcely any remedy can be found, or applied, to check this established evil, or root it out; that the disease is too inveterate to admit of cure; that numberless obstacles stand in the way of the completion of so happy, so salutary a design. But it requires no great penetration to discover the true nature and strength of this disease, this cause of injury and ruin. The sources of the malady may not only be easily discovered, but when they are once traced and pointed out, will be found so iniquitous as to shrink from publicity and exposure. With firm resolution, therefore, the bold, the decisive effort must be made to cut away not merely the branches, but to destroy the stem and root of this poisonous tree, this source of all the evils which exist. Dismiss from their employment these corrupt agents; let

no sycophant advise the land owners to retain them. The estate, with prudent attention, being thus liberated from this baneful control, will soon assume the appearance of health, animation, and prosperity. Industry, with merit as its attendant, will insure success; simple, yet energetic measures will easily attain whatever is necessary or desirable; and having brought things to this crisis, this sharp, but sure remedy will prove effectual.

I shall now beg leave to point out the system to be acted upon, which, I presume, will fully answer for the preservation and culture of a sugar estate in the island of Jamaica in particular, and in the West India islands in general; maintain it in vigorous prosperity to yield gainful returns, and preserve the capital of the proprietor.

The first thing, I presume, to be considered is, in case of the proprietor's non-residence in the island, how to fill up the place of a resident attorney with a person of skill, industry, perseverance, and in-

tegrity, in discharging not only the duties of a planter, in directing and planning, but to keep fair and equitable accounts of the various transactions of the estate, with respect to its culture and incidental transactions, in as simple a manner as the nature of things will admit of. There should be laid before the proprietor, in plain legible terms, the accounts of the estate to the end of every year; a list of the slaves and stock, with their increase and decrease; the cultivation of the estate, with the returns from plant and ratoon, in curing house hogsheads of sugar; the number of acres in cultivation of canes; returns of rum; the condition of cane, grass pieces, and provision grounds; the quantity of acres laid down in a table, whether plant or ratoon; their condition, and when fit to be cut; the names and number of the white people resident on the estate, with their occupations and salaries; the different island accounts, whether paid or unpaid, as they are presented; the ship-

ments and appropriation of the crop ; what balance of the crop there still remains on the estate, or at the wharf, not yet appropriated or shipped, and the list of clothing and salt provisions served to the slaves ; jobbing and tradesmen's accounts, &c. &c. These simple accounts are easily kept, transcribed, brought home, and presented, for the satisfaction of the proprietor, every year : he also keeping such a memento by him as should refresh his memory and satisfy his mind. The person thus commissioned, confided in, and depended upon for punctuality, celerity, and truth, should be one who will undertake the charge as a travelling agent, perfectly assured, under all circumstances, that he would fully answer every intention of his appointment, and endeavour to bring the crops to a speedy market, at one-fifth the expense of a resident island agent, and few mortifying disappointments ; far less island contingencies and disbursements. Every thing should be brought within the mental scope

of the proprietor by regular returns, and duties duly and efficiently performed; the entire of his crops brought or sent home to him, that he may appoint his own broker to dispose of them; that he may circulate his own bills of exchange, and discharge his island disbursements by their means. His list of supplies should be brought home by his travelling agent, who should inspect on the estate, that only what is really wanted is sent for, and likewise the nature and condition of the supplies shipped. He either should go out in the vessel that carries them, or follow shortly after it arrives in the island, in time to detect any damage or fraud, and without delay have them brought on the estate. He should look minutely whether his former orders have been carried into effect with precision; examine the condition of the slaves, stock, and culture; make his remarks on any errors which have crept in through neglect or otherwise, which demand censure or amendment. He should order the

requisite improvements, arrangements, and tillage of lands; have stock purchased, if necessary; old or infirm cattle fattened or sold off; buildings repaired; lumber procured for the entire crop; the slaves served with clothing; the salaries of the resident white people paid by bills of exchange sold for that purpose; the different accounts made up; the produce on hand shipped in good time and order, without loss by ullage, &c. &c. All this can be performed, by a stay of three months in the island, by the travelling agent; and the same person may return to England in the vessel in which the produce is shipped, or be the harbinger of the favourable news in some other vessel. Affairs taking this turn, corruption would have scarcely time or opportunity to creep in; the net proceeds would be in the hands or at the disposal of the proprietor; the overseer and white people resident on the estate would live in a state of anticipation as to the time of visitation. Anxiety for the preservation

of their situations would keep them assiduous, sober, and attentive. Having done their duty, they would be confident of support, preferment, and reward. Their example would diffuse a spirit of emulation in others; their health would be preserved; their constitutions unimpaired by excess; they would be comparatively happy in a foreign tropical climate; grow wealthy by degrees; and at last, saving a little independence, would return home, either to spend the remainder of their days in comfort and plenty, or meet flattering thanks and rewards from the proprietor for their fidelity and good conduct, appointing them, perhaps, to a lucrative situation, as travelling agents; fit to be entrusted, having undergone the various duties of planters with patience, temper, experience, and competent knowledge. Thus they would combine credit to themselves, and advantage to their employers.

It now comes to be enquired into, what may be the amount of annual savings

to the proprietor, by employing such a person in the character of a travelling planting agent. The present mode of requiring the resident agent is, principally, by five per centage on all sales, either in the island or on shipments home: that of the travelling agent should be by a salary proportioned to the number of hogsheads of sugar the estate, upon an average of one year with another, is capable of making: from 100*l.* to 150*l.* sterling per annum, with his travelling expences likewise defrayed. The income to the resident island agent would be nearly 500*l.* sterling per annum, besides his occasional residence on the estate, and the establishment of a large house, with its attendant servants, express mule-boys, grooms, grass, corn, and what good things the estate can likewise furnish for his table, &c.; making another additional expence, out of the estate and the proprietor's pocket, of 500*l.* a-year more. As to the mode of payment to the travelling agent, I would presume

to provide for it thus : the fixed salary of 100*l.* or 150*l.* per annum for each estate should be paid him by the proprietor of such estate as he may be employed for ; the travelling charges to be paid or defrayed by a number of West India or Jamaica proprietors, who would confederate together, and form themselves into an association for their mutual interest, to have the business of their estates transacted and managed by such travelling agent. By such a union the travelling expenses would fall light on each individual, perhaps never exceeding 35*l.* sterling per annum for each estate, thereby making the expenses of salary and of travelling not to amount to 200*l.* sterling per annum for each estate, and thus rendering the employment worthy the acceptance of a fit person. The travelling agent having but the short period of three or four months to stay on the island annually, and having his time wholly engrossed between the different estates, inspecting, executing, ordering,

and diligently providing for the future welfare of the different properties, collecting accounts, &c., no establishment of a large house would be required. The ordinary fare of the overseer's house would be found fully suitable to his expectations. His intentions would be directed to the completion of his business by a stated time; indulgence, satiety, excess, or voluptuousness, he would neither think of nor care about; his retinue would be small, his appearance unostentatious, his notions unassuming and humble. He would command without arrogance, and dictate with affability and reason. He would be welcomed with joy, respected during his stay, and taken leave of with regret. He would have the good wishes of the white people and the slaves attached to the estates under his management. They would rejoice at his welfare and return back to them. This would give a saving to the proprietor of at least 600*l.* or 700*l.* per annum, without the danger of a sinking fund, or the rapacity

carried on, under the garb of a pompous resident island agent, with the veil of treacherous speculation, and screened by near 5000 miles' distance. The sugar and rum crop is accounted for fairly, because shipped home and sold there, under the eye and superintendence of the proprietor himself; sound and durable lumber is provided for the entire of the crop, making an assurance of the produce being shipped and received in good order, or the captain and owners of the vessel made accountable for it, taking care previously to effect the necessary insurance on the property. No unnecessary millwright, mason, and coppersmiths' bills should be allowed; common-place surveying should be annihilated; extraordinary jobbing abolished, with its frequent bad incomplete work. Wharfage accounts should be accurately ascertained, with divers other incidental expenses and losses retrenched. No more supplies should be sent out than what are absolutely necessary, making another saving

(speaking within bounds) of at least six or seven hundred a-year to the proprietor.

When the travelling agent arrives in England, his accounts should be presented to each proprietor or employer that he is commissioned by, either at a general board or individually, in order that they may be audited by a person appointed for that purpose, either by the board in general or any individual proprietor. The whole should be entered in a regular book, a copy of which should be always kept by each proprietor, for his satisfaction, that he may be able to refer to it at all times. The travelling agent should keep a book of accounts corresponding to this. This being done to general satisfaction, the next occupation of the travelling agent is to have the different merchants, tradesmen, &c. advised of the supplies wanted to be shipped by a stated time for each estate; to have them collected, inspected, marked, shipped, and the bills of lading signed; one to be kept in England by the proprietor, one to be trans-

mitted under cover, by letter, to the overseer on the estate, and one to be kept in the possession of the travelling agent himself: so that all parties interested therein may have one to advise and guide themselves with. It is presumed that this combination of circumstances, this rule invariably acted upon, this chain of business linked together with regularity, and carried into execution with celerity, assiduity, and vigour, will meet with the approbation, support, countenance, and adoption of the majority of the independent, impartial planters.

Having thus treated and descanted upon the circumstances essentially necessary to the well being of a sugar estate in general, and particularly in the island of Jamaica, — by changing the administration of it from a resident to a travelling planting agent, with its consequent preservation and savings, from tottering ruin to healthy animation, with its prosperous emanations from nature, aided by integrity, assiduity, and experience, — I will proceed now to treat of and expatiate

upon what I presume should be the study and practice of planting and carrying on the business and duties of a sugar estate, in the West India islands, interspersing here and there remarks upon old customs, with anecdotes by way of illustration, which may prove instructive and entertaining; many of them, I dare say, living in the memory not only of some people in Jamaica, which they know to be truth, but some have come to the knowledge of persons residing in England. I shall indulge in no personalities; my design only being to do good, all intention of giving offence is disclaimed: impartiality is aimed at, without invidious scandal: such motives must not be attributed to me, as I absolutely disavow them.

As much depends upon the nature, disposition, qualifications, and disposal of the white people immediately living on the estate, not only for managing, superintending, and protecting the property, a main object to be considered is, the selection of

such for the relative duties they are required to perform; taking care to make it a primary and most important rule, to be wholly free from bias or prejudice, in the employing of men, from any of the three sister kingdoms, in preference one to the other. Those of general good character, for steady, sober, industrious habits, not given to sudden or violent gusts of passion, yet of lively, cheerful dispositions, delighting in activity, with corresponding vigour and health; ingenious, and susceptible to improvement, yet not apt to catch at every trifling experiment, should be preferred. The overseer should be a man of intelligence, tempered with experience, naturally humane, steadfast in well devised pursuits, not given to keeping indiscriminate company, or suffering his subordinate white people to do so, thereby vitiating their manners. His business hours will be fully occupied by the concerns of the estate, his leisure ones in the innocent enjoyment of some domestic amusement. He must be

kind and courteous to the young men under him, but giving or allowing them no opportunity to treat him with disrespect; attentive and hospitable to respectable strangers; cautious and wary how he suffers strollers to tempt his benevolence. He must not capriciously or suddenly discharge his white people (as is very often the case), taking care that no envious or jealous sentiment or idea arises in his mind, if his young men have merit on their side, or are caressed by their superiors. He must keep the slaves strictly to their work, yet not imposing on them unusual hours, or inflicting punishment for every trifling offence; but when punishment for crimes is necessary, to temper it with prudent mercy. He must be attentive to their real wants, not suffering them to tease him with their trifling complaints, or tamper with him by their arts, but promptly satisfy them, by enquiring into their serious grievances. Above all things, he must not encourage the spirit of Obea in them

(which is horrible), or dishearten them by cohabiting with their wives, annulling thereby their domestic felicities. He must not suffer their provision grounds to be neglected, trespassed on, or ruined, or their houses to be out of repair or uncomfortable; for it very often happens, that well disposed slaves by such freedoms taken with their wives, their well established grounds ruined by thieves or cattle, their domestic quiet and comfort intruded upon, or their houses rendered uninhabitable by storm or casualty, become runaways. Their conduct influences others, till at last the strength of the estate vanishes, the evil becomes notorious, and the plantation, of course, becomes neglected. The magistrates are then obliged to take this growing evil into serious consideration. Hunting parties are sent out (perhaps with little success) to bring in the fugitives; martial law is at last proclaimed throughout the diseased district; all sorts of people are harassed; public trials are instituted; some of the runaways are never

caught ; others who are brought in under-go trial, and are convicted and sentenced to death or transportation for life. All these proceedings might be avoided by well timed, prompt attention at the beginning of the evil. The overseer loses his character and situation by such misconduct. He seldom regains them, but often sinks into contemptuous disrepute ; or if he maintains them, it is by the stern will of an all-commanding resident island agent, who has promoted and sanctioned this odious and cruel policy. But what is still more intolerable, still more heart-breaking, and calls loudly for public justice, is when those very provision grounds, those very negro houses, which are nursed and reared by the painful toil of the negroes, by months and years of indefatigable labour, those temples of their present and future happiness, are, by the despotic mandate of a ruthless resident island agent, contrary to the island laws, desperately entered into by a gang to his purpose, the provisions de-

stroyed, the houses with their contents pulled down, levelled to the ground, and burnt. It may easily be conjectured what will be the consequence, when the slave views his beggared starving family, his comforts fled, his happiness annihilated and expiring. An example of this profligate conduct, and its direful effects, was notoriously evident about the year 1804 or 1805, as practised upon some well-disposed slaves, belonging to an estate situated in the mountain, from whence flows part of the copious stream of the Rio Nuova, overlooking the Vale of Bagnalls, in the parish of St. Mary's, not far from the proximity of that parish to St. Thomas in the Vale. Such unrestrained free will was known to have taken place in other parts, and the following authenticated account has come to the knowledge of the author.

In the parish of St. Ann's, at no great distance from the surgy course of the turbulent roaring river, an estate presents itself to the traveller's view, flanked by

hills, with an aspect to the sea, of no great magnitude, otherwise than for the noise it made, and the tragedy that was acted there ; but it remains in the record book, kept of public transactions in that parish, respecting the horrid fate of an overseer who lived there, and the terrible consequences of the conduct I have referred to. I would fain draw a veil over this lamentable event ; but by disclosing it, warn others not to tread in such fearful paths, when human nature, however depressed or subjugated, but stung by the anguish of a poison directed to its very existence, will form some desperate design to rid itself of its torment. Alas ! so it was in this case : the overseer was reputed to be a man of ferocious manners. By some accounts he had been engaged in the parish of Trelawny to repress the Maroons. The negroes on the estate I now allude to were said to be unruly and turbulent in their manners ; and the resident island agent, living at a considerable distance from the estate, thought such a man

the best to deal with them. How vain and fruitless are the speculations of some men! Perhaps if he had sent a person of a contrary temper to manage this testy set, they might have been reconciled to their duty, and the disasters that ensued might have never happened. Some mulatto slaves upon the property, as tradesmen, with others, this overseer was in the habit of unceasingly carping at and punishing, for what he thought neglect of duty, upon being threatened, betook themselves to flight, in order to save themselves from his resentment. He then applied himself to the diabolical, ruinous plan of inducing them to return home, by rooting up their provision grounds, and pulling down their houses in despite of the island laws: they still remained out for some time, till the overseer became somewhat sick, and they thought the storm abated. His disorder became less, and their fears returned, as they thought him implacable, — and they conspired to put him to death with secrecy

and despatch. He was of considerable stature, with great strength. In the dead of the night, when his dwelling house was divested of its servants except one female, who either knew and approved of their design, or they enticed out of the room, these mulatto men slaves, associated with others who came there. The overseer was asleep in bed with a young child of his own, little thinking of, or ever surmising his approaching fate. The noise of their entry startled him: he grasped a hanger that was near his bed; but before he could see them, or make an effort with it for his delivery, they rushed on him in a body. A violent scuffle ensued for some minutes. After knocking some of them down, he often plunged for his escape, but they still pressing upon him, he at length became exhausted. They then caught him by the legs, threw a rope over his head, round his neck; and while some dragged him by the legs, others swung the rope round the bed-post, and thus, by pulling contrary ways,

they soon strangled him. They then deliberately went to his trunk, took out clean linen, and after washing him and the room from blood, or any thing that might cause discovery of the murder, they put on him the clean linen, and laid him in the bed again. They then retired, congratulating one another on thus effecting their design, as they thought, without discovery, and with impunity. When he was discovered in the morning apparently insensible, the neighbouring doctor was called in, who slightly examined him and pronounced him dead; and as he had been sick some time, it was given out and believed he died suddenly. Some months passed over before this horrid event was known, which was discovered, by a quarrel among some of the perpetrators of the act, and the female servant, who had been in the house when the murder happened. It came to the knowledge of some neighbours, who soon had those people arrested. They were tried and convicted. The female servant, with

one of the conspirators, was found sufficient evidence against them ; two or three were publicly executed, their heads cut off, and stuck upon high poles on the estate, near the high road. A shocking spectacle, exciting disgust, and branding the estate ever afterwards with murderous, infamous appellations.

An overseer should be a man of settled, sober habits, presenting a gentlemanlike appearance, keeping a regular, well supplied, comfortable table, without profusion, (which the internal means of an estate, in small stock and provisions, generally afford, if attended to,) not only for himself and the white people under him, but for the benefit of such sick and convalescent slaves as require salutary and restoring nourishment. What with Irish salt provisions, &c. sent out in the annual supplies, together with live stock and provisions raised on the estate, adequate means are usually obtained for this purpose. The overseer should be attentive to the white people under him,

that their rooms, linen, &c. are regularly kept clean, showing an example of cleanliness in his own person. He should suffer them to sit, after business hours, in his company, instead of morosely banishing them either to their own sleeping-rooms, or to a distant dark part of the house, till meal-time is announced, which induces them to take gross freedoms with the slaves in the house, and meanly assimilates their manners to such company. This, alas! is too often the case. This has sprung from the weak, envious, jealous tempers, too frequently indulged; and has been cherished as an old custom, thinking that by keeping young men in fear, and at an awful distance, it added dignity to the overseer's station. Thus by keeping them ignorant, by heaping contempt upon them, they have swelled and rivetted their own consequence and importance in the minds of the slave population. Where such conduct predominates, the young men are generally unhappy, unsteady, given to drunkenness,

quarrelling, leaving their situations, cabal-ling, &c. The estate suffers by it, the number of white people is incomplete according to law; the overseer is generally obliged to accept of the services of vagabonds, because few respectable young men will live with him, his character being stamped by such harsh, uncharitable features; and especially as they are liable to be discharged at every gust of his caprice. His temper is soured by frequent casualties of this nature, and vents itself often with terrible consequences upon the slaves under him; whereas the contrary would be the effect of an amiable deportment to the subordinate white people. Feeling themselves comparatively happy, it would be an incentive to them to pay every possible attention to their various duties, to merit the overseer's favour by giving him satisfaction, to preserve their situations, and acquire a good character. They would cultivate respect for him, serve and obey him with alacrity, intuitively and practically become good

planters, secure the estimation and good opinion of the overseer; and thus pave the way to their own promotion, and furnish the district, or the island, with deserving, provident managers.

Another difficulty is created by the corrupt, viciously-disposed, criminal views of some overseers, of what they call the old school; and that is, a determined antipathy to young men sent out to be apprenticed or indented to the estate of the proprietor. To such I have ever found (if they were ever so well inclined) a strong dislike manifested by such men, whose habits of depravity render them ever weak-minded, ever awake to, or dreading representations of their conduct being sent to England, anticipating fatal results not only to the estate, and the management of it, but finally ending in their discharge. This malignant temper principally rests with overseers of the old school, fomented indeed by the precepts of a resident island planting attorney, who likewise is averse to

the introduction of young men, by whom his conduct is observed. Such young men are often ill treated by their superiors: their virtues are of no avail, or are represented as vices; their vices are magnified beyond the power of redemption; their lives become scenes of cruel taunt, neglect, and reproach. This is their portion, till matters are rendered so insupportable that they are often obliged to sue for their indentures to be given up, or run the risk of leaving the estate previous to the time of their servitude expiring, and seeking employment in some distant parish. Instances of this kind I could here easily refer to, and confirm, as having happened in Clarendon, St. Ann's, St. Mary's, &c. The bosom of the parish of Clarendon produced an extraordinary case of this kind, as likewise that of St. Ann's. At the descent of its mountains, not far from the capital of that parish, some young men were sent out duly apprenticed, and placed upon the estates, with the watchword to the overseers, which was, beware

of these seers; keep them under; allow them no liberties; bring them up rigorously to their duties; give them plenty of field-work in all weathers; coarse diet; place no confidence in them; give them no rest by day, or comfortable repose by night; sound in their ears the slavery of their condition; make them be so sensible of that condition, that misery may haunt them. Thus wretchedness compelled them to leave the estate. These young men thus suffered; but it happened that this compulsory banishment did not turn out as fortunate for the resident island agent, or his overseer (the ready executioner of his will), as they imagined. Something went wrong at court, something was found erroneous in the management: fresh powers of attorney came out; a fresh administration took place. Those favourite spots which used to be the residence of the island agent for months, with its emoluments, &c. were painfully longed for again; and after some years of disturbed patience, hoping by his seeming

disinterested urbanity, and apparent Christian-like conduct, after vilifying these young men in every company he went into, and depicting them in the most atrocious light, as having no abilities as planters, he helped them to overseers' stations: this he did with the hope of once more procuring by the effects of their gratitude, his re-establishment on the property. I must here pay the tribute of praise to numerous young men, who have come out to settle in the island of Jamaica as adventurers, who by their natural good disposition (though unrecommended) have attained to be competent planters, have been excellent overseers, and an ornament to society: many I could name; but this would be considered as invidious by others.

But although sending out such young men under indentures has come rather into disrepute, as they have been represented, by letters to the proprietor at home, as incorrigible, idle, and worthless, yet I will venture to assert, and vindicate the assertion

by convincing reasons, that young men sent out from home to be indented to estates, are the fittest for the subordinate duties of them. And first let me premise, that young men of moderate education, whether as apprentices or otherwise, are best adapted to be of effectual service to the estate, and more likely than illiterate blunderers, not only to behave themselves well, but to rise to reputation and distinction as good planters. It is not necessary that men in the capacity of planters should be classically educated, but it is consonant to reason to have them qualified as English scholars, as it enlarges their minds, and makes them capable of their duties. This must, of course, be a great acquisition to an estate, where books are kept of annual and daily occurrences, (a great relief to an overseer, who sometimes knows very little farther than the acquirement of signing his name,) and when time accomplishes their servitude, or makes them fit to take charge of an estate, it will make them more esteemed

by their employers, and respected by the community at large. Many things arise in the exercise of an overseer's duty which require intelligent, nay even sometimes refined talents, to go through with. The best persons, I presume, to be sent to Jamaica, or any of the West India islands, who are to undergo the minor duties of an estate, are young men from seventeen to twenty-one years of age, who are not too old to abide by command, constraint, or instruction. The body and the mind are vigorous and pliant at the former age, adapted for toil, less captious, or averse to controul or advice, and capable of performing the duties of a soldier; an effective militia, for the preservation of the island against invasion and insurrection, being kept up of men in every station there from sixteen to sixty years old. The legislature of the island of Jamaica has wisely imposed a deficiency law which enacts, that a specified number of white people, capable of bearing arms, of the before-mentioned

ages, shall be resident and employed upon each property, according to the number of slaves and working stock; or be assessed a fine for each deficiency. This militia has had the merit of very often performing the most salutary, effectual, and gallant services to the island, not only as local, but marching troops. Young men of this class, after satisfactorily serving a period of four or five years in the planting line, may be deemed not too young to be given in charge of an estate. Young men sent out after they pass the age of twenty-one years, are apt to entertain notions of insubordination; the burthen of servitude sits uneasy upon them; liberty, the darling object, the noble pursuit of mankind, is often uppermost in their minds. Not that they are less virtuous for harbouring the sentiment and passion, but that they are less subject to controul. The commanding, and sometimes the arbitrary orders of the overseer are often slighted by them. They are prone to be disrespectful, guilty of retort, only carelessly or half

obeying his lawful injunctions. This is a crime ever to be avoided in the planting business, as carrying with it a want of deference, and setting an example of insubordination to the rest of the white people, and the knavish, artful slave. This gives rise to unpleasant disputes; the overseer complaining of the presumption and neglect of the young man, and he urging in vindication, the harsh, inflexible conduct of the overseer, judging by his too liberal notions, that he has been hardly dealt with. He then grows sullen, and often impertinent, conniving at, and provoking aspersions on the overseer, who generally has some friend or enemy to inform him of it. The breach is widened, and at last, to wind up the affair, the young man is either removed to some other estate in the same employ, or voluntarily withdraws himself, to avoid this unpleasant termination of the dispute. It would be better, therefore, to have young men sent out of the age just now specified. And having now, I hope, described, with

conviction to my readers, what kind of white people are best adapted for the profession of a planter, I shall take a transient view, with a few cursory remarks, of some other white people, found often to be necessary for a sugar estate; that is, tradesmen, who either come out indented to, or hired upon the property. Young men are frequently sent out indented to an estate to conduct a tradesman's department; such as millwrights, carpenters, coopers, copper-smiths, masons, &c. They have generally served their time, or the principal part of it, to such particular trades in the mother country, before their arrival in the West India islands. They are seldom under twenty-one, and very often forty years of age when they arrive there. They are influenced to go out under this character, either by the temptation of a liberal salary, to execute some difficult design, or have failed in getting employment at home; some are men of sound judgment, but a great many more mere adventurers. Their

employment being rather foreign to an overseer, they for a length of time baffle his power, and oppose his disposition. Sometimes the work is executed in a masterly manner, though great delays attend its completion; but it is often done in so bad a style, as not to answer the end intended, after a great lapse of time, waste of stuff, the labour of a powerful gang of negro tradesmen (the flower of the slave population) lost or made of little avail, and the cattle half destroyed by dragging timber, and heavy materials. Frivolous excuses, with contingent insuperable obstacles, are assigned as the cause of this failure, waste of time, labour and materials. They industriously, but falsely, strive to blame the overseer for the mischance, after harassing his mind for months with some want or other, expending labour and materials unprofitably, reducing the cattle, delaying the crops, and at last oblige him to call in some competent tradesman to render things complete. Dreadful is the situation of an estate

so circumstanced. This stipendiary ignorant mechanic, in the mother country perhaps acquired the habit of drinking, and follows the practice with avidity in his new situation. It would be much better then, I presume, casually to employ, when wanted, the tradesmen of eminence throughout the Islands, to execute any arduous or difficult jobs, provided their charges were moderate, than to be burthened with the maintenance, and ill-earned salary of such useless agents. The negro mechanics attached to the property, are generally found sufficient for common-place work or undertakings ; they are even known to be capital workmen sometimes, and have often great knowledge and skill.

I must here beg leave to observe, that the valuable island of Jamaica produces in great abundance, a variety of the choicest hard wood timbers. Millwrights, and carpenters, sent out from home, are entirely ignorant of their nature, names and texture when they arrive in Jamaica ; for the knowledge

of these they must be indebted to the experienced slave. If they were sent into a wood, to make choice of such as were necessary for durable work, they would as likely cut down a huge cotton tree, a birch, or any other soft wood, as a cogwood or bullet tree. In the same manner would a mason, sent out from home, if told to go to the woods, and have a lime-kiln made, or built, be totally at a loss how to begin or construct such a work. Moreover, they are incapable for a length of time, of understanding the dispositions of the negro tradesmen they are put over; they either make to free with, or are violently tyrannical over them, which unavoidably causes default in the slave, and tiresome (perhaps punishable) complaints to the overseer.

Some proprietors (probably more through instigation, than the natural bent of their own dispositions) are induced to send out indented ploughmen from home, to use that implement in turning up the land for

tillage and the culture of canes. I shall treat more at large in a subsequent place, as to the utility of the plough in Jamaica. But my present object is to point out, that such persons as are usually sent from home, seldom answer the purpose intended; they generally turn out as great an evil as the indented tradesman to an estate. They are mostly very illiterate, ill-informed men. They have been in the habit of driving the flexible, alert horse in the plough, with proper gear to work with; whereas in Jamaica, the dull, heavy, stubborn ox, or steer, is the animal they have to train up, work and contend with, coupled with tough, heavy yokes and bows, and seldom used to any other work than waggon, cart, or mill-work. Besides the negroes are often as ignorant of this mode of work as the ox himself; so that the white ploughman, what between the disposition of the negro and the ox, finds himself dreadfully harassed, every thing nearly depending on his own exertions, in a large field of ten or fifteen

acres to turn up, so that the overseer may have it planted in good time, and that the plants may not spoil through age, and be unfit to put in the ground. What is the result of this experiment? the white ploughman is considered as incompetent: often through fatigue of mind, or body, he becomes sick and feverish; the cattle are half killed, the ground only half ploughed, and the overseer obliged to draw off from other important work the most effective field-gang of the estate, and resort to the alternative of finishing the turning up of the land, by digging it with the hoe; the mode mostly used and best understood in Jamaica. Thus generally ends the career of ploughmen sent out from home.

To sum up this dissertation upon the kind of white people, competent in body and mind, to perform and go through the duties of a sugar estate in the island of Jamaica, the author, instructed by nature and experience, inclines to close it, by a very few desultory remarks, springing

from the situation in which white people are placed as planters. Few stations require more real comforts than should fall to the lot of the white man, exercising the profession of a planter in that island. Emigrated from his native country; alienated from its joys, and the seasons which bring the gifts of bounteous Providence to his gladdened heart, he lands in this unknown climate, invigorated with health, a hale constitution, with little thought of the fatigues, disappointments, and dangers he is to encounter; he is placed instinctively as it were upon this land of delights, this never-fading verdant soil, ignorant of its products, the variety of its population, its allurements to pleasure, its resources to sustain nature, its customs, blessings, and inherent, but lurking, fatal distempers; surrounded by strangers, he scarcely knows what to do, or how to act; it should then materially behove the people that he comes to reside among, who are experienced in the affairs of the island, to be solicitous about his welfare, (in fact about their

own general good,) and by degrees to bring him on to bear the toils of his situation, to give him wholesome advice, to act in a friendly manner, not by indulging him in his appetites or propensities to irregular, inordinate practices, but that seeing his necessities are kindly and wholesomely attended to, he should not be entrusted with the keys of the different stores, till he has sufficient experience to keep them with safety, and be aware of the subtle craft of the negroes. He should be accustomed to superintend for some time, as part of his duty, the rearing and feeding of small stock, (a most essential point to be attended to on every property,) the keeping accounts of them, counting and seeing the cattle and mules dressed of their sores and wounds. I must here observe, that many overseers are so profuse at their table, as soon to wear out, and expend, the entire of the small stock, leaving themselves, and the white people living with them, nothing but the salt beef and

pork in barrels to live on, nay, even sometimes nothing but salt herrings. It is then that the wretched situation of such persons is to be deplored; their very appearance denotes the beggary of their way of living. Squalid, and often ulcerated, they are tempted to exchange salt provisions, with the slaves, for a meagre fowl or duck, to procure a salutary meal. When once the breed of small stock is too much diminished or destroyed, it requires great perseverance, patience, expenditure of corn and time, to restore a sufficient number, to give the means of comfortable subsistence. But if this is properly established, with care and economy, they are a lasting source of plenteous nourishment to the healthy, (whom they preserve,) and to the sick and convalescent in the time of need.

I shall conclude my observations on white people, and their treatment, with remarking, how necessary it is for every white man on an estate or property to be possessed of a horse in his own right, in

order to enable him, not only to discharge his public duty with ease, but to give him occasional recreation, with accustomed respect. To attain this object, a great part of a book-keeper's or a subordinate white man's salary is laid out in the purchase of one, which he must of course be most anxious to have taken care of, as the loss of it reduces him to the lamentable condition of comparative beggary and destitution. Capricious fate may decree him to be discharged or discarded from the estate, for some trifling or heinous offence. At this critical time, he is without this necessary companion to bear him through his difficulties, and often compelled to leave the estate on foot. Then, alas! calumny marks him as a vagabond, unfit to be employed. He is slighted and treated with little pity by the community. Instead then of treating the horse of a book-keeper with indifference or neglect, neither allowing him good stabling or feeding, the overseer should humanely direct his attention

to the wellbeing of his book-keeper's horse, recollecting, that he was once in that situation himself. How pitiable then must be his condition, if he loses this valuable animal, his very respectability depending on his being possessed of one ! This is a cardinal point to be attended to by an overseer, in his treatment of white people, for by paying proper attention to their comfort, he makes an indelible impression on their mind ; his head will recline on his pillow with consoling ease, and it will be a lasting, beneficent trait in his character.

We ought to consider the perils of a white man living as a planter in Jamaica, bringing with him a robust, healthy, European constitution, the hardships he has to undergo (which quickly undermine the constitution) from being out in the field in all weathers, in such a climate. In crop time, one half of his nights are spent in a sultry boiling-house, at a distance from his dwelling, and he is called out of his warm bed in the middle of the night, exposed, perhaps, to

nstant wet or storm, or half-way up to the knees in mire in his passage to the works. The fevers which ensue oblige him to pay, out of his own pocket, for medical advice, which comes very high there. His loss by the death of a horse, nothing but time and hard labour will repair, and put him in possession of another. He has to fit himself out with regimentals, and find himself with decent clothes; and every article of wearing apparel being nearly three times as dear there as in the mother-country, and the consumption twice as much, adds considerably to his burdens. I presume to say, if the considerate, humane-minded employer reflects on these things, he will be inclined rather to add to than decrease the salaries of the resident white people, on a plantation or sugar estate. Besides increasing their salaries according to their merit, good conduct must be encouraged. The business of the estate will be better and more effectually conducted by men of good than bad character. In the long run, the happy effects

will be productively apparent, savings will accrue, satisfaction and happiness will be the issue. It is much easier to get rid of bad young men than to procure good ones; so that when there are well-disposed, intelligent young men on a property, it would be well to keep them there, and show them the advantage of being steady, by rewarding them for their services, with a small increase of salary. I beg leave to assert, that no overseer on a sugar estate should have less than 200*l.* currency per annum, (whatever more he may obtain,) and no subordinate young man, in the character of book-keeper, less than 80*l.* currency per annum, and whatever more he may receive according to his merit. The addition of 10*l.* or 20*l.* per annum to each would scarcely be felt by the proprietor, and the property benefited some hundreds of pounds a year by it.

It is likewise a source of great additional comfort for every property to have a well kept, plenteously stocked kitchen-garden

on it, which can always be established and continued at a trifling expense, an invalid negroe generally being appointed to such work, with a comfortable cabin to live in, to preserve seeds and plants, and guard it from thievish invasion. It is almost needless to say, that even in a temperate climate, the use of garden-vegetables, and pot-herbs, is considered as most essential requisites to health and enjoyment; how much more so must such salutary productions be to men living in a land exposed to the effects of a parching, tropical sun, whose blood is in a state of almost constant fermentation, whose exhaustion is excessive. If their food is not qualified with the purifying, grateful influence of such ingredients, the system becomes morbid, extreme languor ensues: the corrupt, latent seeds of disease burst forth at length into some terrible distemper or malady, proving fatal to many. Add to this, the practical economy of a table furnished with viands of this kind. The islands in gene-

possibilities of bar and improvement, the

ral afford abundance of natural productions of this sort, the roots and seeds of which are easily procured, which, if sown or planted properly, nursed in their infancy, and kept even moderately clean, will be a perpetual source of wholesome nutritious supply. The Indian kale, ochro, quash, peppers, ackys, and a variety of pulse, being natural to the climate, together with a few fresh European garden-seeds, sent out regularly every year in the supplies, which thrive very well here, give an abundance and variety, which few soils or climates can boast of. This garden should never be at a distance from the overseer's house, as his eye and talents are its safeguard, nurse, and support.

CHAP. II.

THE TREATMENT OF SLAVES.

ON entering and expatiating on the treatment I presume most proper for slaves, especially those under the command and management of overseers in the planting line, (which is a great and even cardinal point in the spirit of plantership,) I shall first advert to the ameliorating laws enacted by the assembly of Jamaica, which are recognisable by every owner of slaves, overseers, &c. living in that island. Than these nothing more belies the slanderous representations of some overrating philanthropic people, who assert, that their condition, comforts, rights, and protection from severities, are not attended to. Having the knowledge and experience of those existing laws, not only made and promulgated, but strictly acted upon, under heavy penalties of fine and imprisonment, the

violation of them cannot escape a numerous magistracy, or the contumely of a watchful community, I shall venture to avow in the face of the world, that there are no class of people in their sphere, in the universe, whose faults and natural tendency to crime are more abridged and looked over, their wants supplied, their comforts attended to, nay their very existence, when tender infancy, or decrepid old age requires care and succour, more humanely or rigidly looked after. A quarterly return is made to each parochial vestry, establishing thereby an inquisitorial power into the increase and decrease of the slave-population for each property, by which it is seen, in general, whether there is a growing increase of the population, putting a quietus to such groundless fabrications.

I shall go on (without alluding to former custom) into the train of practice I suppose best suited to treat the adult, strong, healthy slave, the youth, the infant, the invalid, and superannuated, classing them according to their different occupations. We

have not for some years imported, neither is it ever likely to take place, that we should have a fresh supply of slaves thus brought into the British colonies. The old Africans are daily wearing out and dropping into the grave; our care is to support the present stock, encourage healthy propagation, lessen their propensity to vice, cabalistic or obea arts, induce them to receive Christianity, not to excite their hatred or jealousy by lewdness or wicked practices with their wives, — a baneful custom; to take care that they are regularly supplied with salt provisions, (which they prefer to fresh, being good, savoury cooks in their own way;) comfortable clothing; that their houses are kept tenable; their time and hours to cultivate their grounds not infringed upon; those grounds kept free from trespass of cattle or otherwise; that they be not punished for every trifling fault, or unmercifully, at any time; when really sick, that they be taken into the hospital, under the care of the attending doc-

tor, with proper medicine, nourishment, &c., for them; that their infant children are provided with proper nurses when weaned, kept clean, free from insects called che-goes; a wholesome mess of stewed provisions, with a proportion of garden-stuff, made savoury by a little salt meat, &c., served to these children every day, in the overseer's presence; the invalids and superannuated treated with sympathy; and their sufferings, brought on by either age or infirmity, relieved. By such usage as this, the slave becomes attached to the property he belongs to. He only nominally is such in his own thoughts; his master's property is his freehold; the property cannot thrive without him, or he exist without the property; he gets old in its service; has children to comfort, support, and soothe him when past his labour, who generally glory in their regard to their parents. This is a most respectable spectacle either on the estate, the public road, or at the provision-market. He sinks quietly into the grave

at a full old age, and leaves with studious impartiality his little property (of whatever kind it may be) among his children, whom he has trained up to pursue his manner and mode of life. Thus, with the blessing of Providence, insuring to the proprietor a succession of healthy, well-disposed, effective slaves. Casting a look over the European map, I can discern districts, I may say entire countries, styling themselves civilised, which are now ordaining laws for the balance of power, securing their dominions by the specious appellation of religious, Christian-like epithets, when nine-tenths of the population of those countries only have nominal freedom; few of the comforts, protections, and enjoyments of the slaves in Jamaica, and the West India islands, and are in fact the veriest slaves in the world.

The most important personage in the slave-population of an estate is the head driver. He is seen carrying with him the emblems of his rank and dignity, a polished

staff or wand, with prongy crooks on it to lean on, and a short-handled, tangible whip; his office combining within itself a power, derived principally from the overseer, of directing all conditions of slaves, relative to the precise work he wishes each gang or mechanic to undergo or execute. The great gang is comprised of the most powerful field-negroes, and is always under his charge. These are the strength with which principally to carry into effect the main work in the field, and manufacture the sugar and rum. There are so many points to turn to, so many occasions for his skill, vigilance, steadiness, and trust-worthiness, that the selection of such a man, fit for such a place, requires circumspection, and an intimate knowledge of his talents and capacity. A bad or indifferent head driver sets almost every thing at variance; injures the negroes, and the culture of the land. He is like a cruel blast that pervades every thing, and spares nothing; but when he is well-disposed, intelligent, clever, and active,

he is the life and soul of an estate. He very often is an elderly or middle-aged negro, who has long been so employed. If it should be so ordered, that a new head driver is requisite to be put in commission, I must beg leave to lay before my readers, my opinion of the proper choice of one. I may err, but hope not irretrievably. He should, in my judgment, be an athletic man; sound and hardy in constitution; of well-earned and reputed good character; of an age, and, if possible, an appearance to carry respect; perhaps about thirty-five years old; clean in his person and apparel; if possible a native or Creole of the island, long used to field work, and marked for his sobriety, readiness, and putting his work well out of his hands. His civility should be predominant, his patience apparent, his mode of inflicting punishment mild. He should be respectful to white people; suffering no freedoms from those under him, by conversation or trifling puerile conduct. It is rare, indeed, to find

this mass of perfection in a negro; but you may obtain a combination of most of those virtues; and as to petty vices, always inherent in some measure in human nature, they must be looked over, when not too full of evil. The junior drivers likewise, if possible, should be men of this description; but having a good master over them in the head driver, they will be induced to behave themselves tolerably. It gives a great deal of vexation to an overseer when he changes his head driver. Caprice should never have any hand in such a transaction. The overseer who thus trifles, who thus stakes the fortunes of an estate upon mere frivolities, deserves never to be employed again. The burden of the ensuing mischief that may happen to the property, should rest on his shoulders. Yet it indispensably behoves an overseer to get rid of, or dismiss a bad head driver; for such a one he will soon find out. When ill disposed he will perceive the negroes likewise so; the work will not be carried on

agreeable to his dictates; things suffer in general; the slaves run away, or are inclined to be turbulent; he and they cabal; bad sugar is made; and perhaps the horrid and abominable practice of Obea is carried on, dismembering and disabling one another; even aiming at the existence of the white people. The root, then, of this evil must be struck at, and the head driver and his abettors sent to public punishment.

Another most material person on an estate is the head cattle and mule man. These are people of great responsibility, having under their charge a great portion of the proprietor's capital, much depending on them for their safety: bringing the canes from the field to the mill, for its constant supply in crop-time, and carrying the crop to the barquadier. They have to keep the cattle and mules in good order, and likewise make them perform their duty well. They should likewise, with the head driver, have the good of the estate at heart; have a proper choice of what cattle are best

adapted for field, mill, or road work ; know the temper and abilities of the stock ; the fit and regular time to spell or relieve them with others ; have always a sufficient quantity of proper tackling for them ; the best mode of feeding, and dressing them for occasional bruises, sores, and wounds ; resting those that are lame, meagre, or that are intended for some stress of work : they should be sober, steady, hale, respectable men. Their employment both in and out of crop, should be the working, taking care, and feeding of their cattle and mules. They must not be drafted to other work, putting the cattle and mules thereby out of the pale and exercise of their responsible avocations : an old, but bad practice. Theft is often practised by cattle or wain men, in carrying the sugar and rum to the wharf ; likewise plundering the supplies (especially salt provisions) in bringing them up to the estates. Care should be taken, if possible, to have the head cattle or wain men vigilant and honest ; that the head mule-man is like-

wise so ; neither taking himself, nor allowing others to take mules off from the property, for his or their private use or work, without the overseer's licence. This is often done, to the great injury, and perhaps loss, of the mules. Thousands of cattle and mules are yearly destroyed throughout the island, by the careless villany or connivance of vicious and profligate cattle and mule men.

The head boiler or manufacturer of sugar is another slave, whose trust and employment, during crop-time, is of the most responsible kind. He should always be a person who has an intimate knowledge of such a process ; the way the cane has been raised and treated ; the kind of soil it grows upon ; if that soil has been high or low manured ; the age of the cane ; the species it is of ; whether it has been topped short or long in the cutting ; if it has been arrowed, bored, or rat-eaten ; giving him by this perspicuous view, a thorough knowledge of the lime tempering the cane-juice

requires ; the time it may take to concoct, inspissate, and be fit to skip into the coolers. He must be impartial in his mode and time of potting the sugar from the cooler into the hogshead, so that it stands the hogshead well, cures properly, lets off the spumy, spurious molasses, without embodying it in the sugar, thereby giving it an open, free grain. He should be an economist in boiling the sugar, without being a miser to the distilling house. He must be honest, sober, industrious, and keep the junior boilers to their work. Such are the qualities, I presume, requisite for a head boiler on a sugar estate. The fairest fruits of a cane field have been destroyed, perverted, and rendered a mass of thick, slimy, dark, sour, cloddy, unprofitable, unmarketable substance, (disappointing the expectations of the overseer,) by an improper choice of such a member, or having a villain for conducting such a business. The labour of negroes and stock have often been lost by this means ; the trash-house consumed

or emptied, shipments disappointed, and the adulterated juices sent to the distilling-house, where it will scarcely pay for its boiling.

Other head men, such as carpenters, coopers, masons, coppersmiths, and watchmen, are next in succession as principal slaves on an estate. They generally arrive at their headship, from being distinguished either by the proprietor, overseer, or some superintending mechanic, as good workmen. They are found of infinite service in the various jobs frequently requisite to be done : for the building, improving, and repairing of the manufacturing houses, &c. saving the proprietor (if ingenious, industrious, and sober,) a considerable sum of money annually, by not having occasion to call in the aid of an eminent tradesman to execute the business. They should always have plenty of materials to keep them employed ; seasoned wood to work ; and the masons and coppersmiths repairing out of crop any damage done in it.

A head watchman is always a necessary slave officer on every property ; but if such a person is not narrowly looked after, or of extraordinary good character, he spends the greater part of his time in gadding about ; working a distant ground of his own ; harbouring runaway slaves, whom he cheaply hires to perform some work for him ; or perhaps takes an effective mule off the estate, to carry some provisions with despatch to market. This is a bad example to the slave population, who are ever prone to catch infection of this kind. To prevent its noxious influence, this man should frequently, in the course of the day, be with, or at the overseer's house ; early in the morning he should go round to the watchmen stationed at the works, and see that every thing is as it should be. He should make a report of the state of the business to the overseer ; go round to the cane piece, watchmen, and cattle-pens, and observe if any trespass has been committed, or fences broke. At breakfast-time he

should bring the different cane piece watchmen, with their weapons of defence on one side, and their rat-springs on the other, to the overseer's house, to see their success in destroying those hurtful creatures. He should always have along with him a number of active smart dogs, trained up to hunting those animals, who are in immense numbers throughout the cane pieces, provision-grounds, and ruins; likewise to chase and catch the freebooting hogs that are let loose from the negroes' pigsties. This head watchman should go over the lines of the property once or twice a week, through the woods, and strictly observe that no damage is done there, or loss sustained by trespass; and report the same to the overseer. He should be ever watchful that no mischief is done, or trespass committed on the negroes' provision grounds, keeping the watchmen there most particularly to their duty; and he should take care that the fences are repaired where broken, by those who are appointed so to

do. He should attend at night when the head driver waits to get his orders from the overseer, to know the names of the nightly watchmen to be stationed at the works; and, before he retires to his supper, observe if those watchmen are at their posts. Regularly every week, on Saturday or Monday morning, he should have the handicraft watchmen bring an ample supply of well made mule-pads; fine hackled plantain trash, from off the stem of the plantain tree; ropes for mules, waggons, and cattle tackling; trash and dung baskets, lining pegs, rat-springs, &c. brought home, and deposited in the appropriate store, to be had when wanted. By such a rotation of duty, this officer can be extremely useful, and his time well spent. As an incentive to the principal headmen of an estate to do their duty well, or reward their exertions, to those that are most exposed to toil, inclement weather, loss of time by superintending others, a weekly allowance of a quart or

two of good rum, some sugar, and now and then a dinner from the overseer's table, will be found of salutary effect. If deemed necessary to punish for bad conduct or neglect of duty, such benefits can occasionally be withdrawn.

I now come to call the attention of my readers to another class of slaves, whose lot of occupation comes more immediately under the proprietors' or overseers' eye; they rank in the capacity of domestics and house people. I shall first advert to the hothouse or hospital doctor or doctress, (as they are termed in Jamaica,) midwives, &c., a most fearful fraternity, who in the course of the year, may do a great deal of good, or promote and establish an infinite number of disorders; having, perhaps, in that time, the whole population of the estate, — white people, mixed, coloured, and black — under their care. Acquainted with medicine only in a superficial manner, if ever so experienced, they never should have the charge of the bulk of what medicines may be on the

estate ; and what they are put in possession of, should be of a simple nature. Of deleterious drugs they should never have the mixing up ; and the utmost caution should be observed when they are allowed to administer any such. A few doses of glauber salts, sulphur, rhubarb, castor-oil, camphorated spirits, bitters and plaisters to dress sores and make blisters of, with two or three lancets, a pair of scissars, and spatula, is all they should have under their immediate care. In fact, an experienced, attentive overseer or book-keeper (as is usually the case) will perform cures in ordinary, simple cases, compound and administer the medicine to the afflicted and sick, with little necessity to call in the aid of the practising white doctor, except when danger threatens. Indeed, some gentlemen of that character in Jamaica, are very little entitled to that appellation. They have large incomes from each estate, without doing any good whatever in a year's visiting. However I shall leave

such people to the censure of their own profession. An hospital of sick diseased slaves, is a source of great unhappiness to an overseer. Humanity should call forth his attention; his duty and the interest of the estate should bind him to it, if the strength of the estate is in the hospital, in a manner lying dormant. If a valuable slave remains there lingering, his mind is sure to be tainted; his work is delayed, and danger may accrue to the capital under his charge. His character may suffer, and his situation become precarious. Every thing conspires in the mind of a sedulous, humane overseer, to do all in his power to free the hospital of its patients, and restore them to renovated vigour and health. A book of medical treatment, especially of such diseases as are incidental to tropical climates, and is applicable to the cure of negro distempers, should be always kept on every property in the West Indies. I would prefer a male to a female in attending the hospital; and there should always

be a room there, for the comfortable accommodation of such a person, in case his nightly attendance is requisite. The male and female patients should be kept separate, in comfortable warm apartments, blankets, &c., and a fire place to each apartment. Nourishment should always be afforded from the general store, and overseers' table to those who require it. It requires a nice discernment and discrimination to know, who are to be admitted for medicine or otherwise, into the hospital. The slaves in Jamaica, ever given to a most flagrant abuse of whatever may be established, or presumed to be for their benefit, the whole population of an estate, (with a few exceptions), would present themselves for admittance there, if the house was large enough to contain them, or their artifices not well understood, whether they wanted or not the aid of medicine. Even the wary experienced overseer they will strive to overreach and deceive; nay, they will force nature from its due course, and by a tem-

porary contraction or revulsion of some vessel in their frame, effect their lazy purpose of sitting down in the hospital. Sores they will irritate and keep alive, fresh ones inflict, and medicines swallow with avidity to avoid work, get in there, and enjoy their supine, idle propensities. They always practise upon a new overseer such tricks. Upon such application, I would give them a hearty dose of some simple medicine, and have them strictly confined to the hospital. If no practising doctor is employed for the property, let them remain there for two or three days, and if nothing apparently ails them, send them to their work. If a doctor is employed, let him examine into their respective cases; if not found unwell, send them to their work again; and let a regular hothouse book be kept of what medicines are ordered and administered, when they are taken in, and when turned out.

Midwives are generally elderly women on a property, who attend the breeding-women, in time of child-birth. They are

in general egregiously ignorant, yet most obstinately addicted to their own way; but still if they find danger fast approaching, most probably brought on by their own tampering, they will cunningly run to the overseer, tell him of the dangerous case, and that he should send for the doctor; and when he arrives, when sinking nature is nearly lost in the dissolution of the mother or child, or one or other expires shortly after his arrival, they dexterously assert, that if he had followed their advice, all would have been well. They impress, by the nature of their office and by such assertions, such an awe and reverence for them on the minds of all classes of slaves, that few practising doctors wish to encounter them, or be called in to assist at a birth, or give relief to a female slave in travail, which those harpies attend. The overseer can do little or nothing, in those trying cases, farther than afford medicine, restoratives, and nourishment, for which he is called upon abundantly by these practition-

ers, and which he gives with the freedom of a father. Encouraging the midwife in her attention, for the welfare of mother and child, he gladly has them taken care of, if living; and consoles himself that no blame can be attached to him for any failure. If a happy issue is effected, he rewards the midwife and mother, and rejoicingly adds another name, to the list of slave-population in the plantation book.

The house people should always be composed of the people of colour belonging to the property, or cleanly, well-affected slaves to white people, who understand the way of keeping a house clean in that country, the care of house-linen, needle-work in general, and cookery. They should be neat in their persons, without disease, not inclined to quarrelling or much talking, civil in their manners, not addicted to steal away to the negro-houses, neglect their work, to pilfering or drunkenness. Having such people as these in a dwelling house, the white people and themselves feel, that they are com-

paratively happy. If an overseer upon every frivolous occasion, (which often happens,) changes his domestics, he seldom is comfortable for an hour; every thing is at variance; a dirty house, tattered linen, waste of every thing, tumult and punishment going on, caballing, conspiracy, perfidy, and attempts perhaps against his life, many instances of which could be related here. When an orderly set is once in a house, they are with little trouble kept to their duty. As jealousy is apt to creep in among the females, the overseer should give them little or no cause for it; it is a raging, unforgiving, relentless pestilence. Whatever needle-work is requisite, such as making and repairing house-linen, shirts, and stockings, making the clothes for the slaves, who have no wives, or are ignorant how to make it themselves; put a presiding house-woman of good conduct over them, to instruct and superintend them; put no temptations in their way, by entrusting them with the store-keys. Give

them a small, but not a profuse part of what meals you partake of. Let them have due time, by relieving one another, in the course of the week, to work their provision grounds, and mind their little poultry and pigs, not suffering them to raise them about the dwelling or overseer's house.

The great gang. — Nothing animates the planting system more than the wellbeing of this admirable effective force, composed of the flower of all the field battalions, drafted and recruited from all the other gangs, as they come of an age to endure severe labour. They are drilled to become veterans in the most arduous field undertakings, furnish drivers, cattlemen, mulemen, boilers, and distillers. They are the very essence of an estate, its support in all weathers and necessities; the proprietor's glory, the overseer's favourite, directed by him. Brigaded by its chief field-officer, the head driver, they inspire confidence, and command respect. This gang, composed of a mixture of able men and women,

sometimes amounting to an hundred, should always be put to the field work, which requires strength and skill in the execution ; such as making lime-kilns, digging cane-holes, making roads through the estate, trenching, building stone walls, planting canes and provisions, trashing heavy canes, cutting and tying canes and tops in crop time, cutting copper-wood, feeding the mill, carrying green trash from the mill to the trash-house, and repairing the public roads, when allotments are to be worked out. They should always be provided with good hoes, bills, a knife, and axes, to those men who know how to make use of them. They should have these tools kept in the most serviceable order. They should be made to work in a parallel line as they are set in. The head-driver, his assistant-driver, and bookkeeper, should visit each row, and see that they do their work well. An animating inoffensive song, struck up by one of them, should be encouraged and chorussed while at work ;

for they are thought good composers in their own way. No punishment should be inflicted, but what is absolutely necessary, and that with mercy. In bad weather, a glass of good rum should be given to each; and when making lime-kilns, roads, and digging cane-holes, a small proportion of rum and sugar likewise to each. Their cook should be regular with their breakfast by nine o'clock in the morning, and their salt provisions constantly served to them. Keeping them in heart, they will work accordingly. They should not work them out of crop, either before day or after dark, (a custom formerly practised,) for they are chilly in their nature, and liable to frequent colds, which bring on fevers and pleurisies. A few hours of such work might give a patient to the hospital for a month. It is, when the all-quickening sun has influenced the creation, that the field-negro feels alive to his work, and announces it, by his cheering song, and redoubled efforts. In heavy rain, all orders of field-negroes should be

called in by sound of bell or conch-shell. Attention to these remarks, I presume to think, will add to the stability of an overseer's birth, and be a rule to guide him by.

Second gang.—This gang should be composed of people, who are thought to be of rather weakly habits, mothers of sucking children, youths drafted from the children's gang, from twelve to eighteen years of age, and elderly people that are sufficiently strong for field-work. They should have a competent driver to follow and direct them. Their strength and abilities should be ascertained and assimilated to field-work of the second order, such as cleaning and banking young canes, turning trash on ratoon pieces, threshing light canes, chopping and heaping manure, planting corn, cleaning grass pieces, carrying dry trash in crop time to the stokeholes, and such work, requiring no great strength. The mothers of sucking children should be provided with nurses to take care of the infants, while they are at work in the fields,

and a hut made in a convenient place, to retire to, in case of stress of weather. One mother out of every four in the field should be allowed to go and suckle her child for a quarter of an hour, then succeeded by others, and so on, that the infants should not want, and those mothers should not be obliged to turn out to work before sunrise, or be detained to work after sunset. They should have a weekly allowance, of a pint of flour or meal, with a proportion of sugar for each child. The mothers and infants should be kept clean, and free from chegoes. A yard or two of flannel and check, should be given to each infant, for a frock and cover, besides their usual allowance of clothing. In all other respects this gang should be treated as the other slaves on the property are.

The Third or Weeding Gang. — This corps, forming the rising generation, from which, in progress of time, all the vacancies occurring in the different branches of slave population are filled up, comes next to be

considered. Their merits are great in their sphere. The expectations formed of them are still greater, when contemplated in a future point of view. They are drivers, cattlemen, mulemen, carpenters, coopers, and masons, as it were in embryo. Their genius and strength rises and ripens with their years, as they are made emulous by proper treatment. It argues then what that kind of treatment should be, to promote with success so good a design. Even in common life, throughout civilized Europe, the welfare of the child is the grand object of the parent. The owner and the overseer of those valuable shoots should act the part of a parent, fosterer, and protector, looking on them as the future prop and support of the property. How pleasing, how gratifying, how replete with humanity it is to see a swarm of healthy, active, cheerful, pliant, straight, handsome creole negro boys and girls going to, and returning from the puerile field work allotted to them, clean and free from disease or blemish.

It forms one of the best traits in an overseer's character, to have and preserve such under his charge. Negro children, after they pass five or six years of age, if free from the yaws, or other scrophula, and are healthy, should be taken from the nurse in the negro houses, and put under the tuition of the driveress, who has the conducting of the weeding gang. It is an unquestionable evil to leave them there after they come to that age, as they imbibe, by remaining there, a tendency to idle, pernicious habits. When they can be any way useful, it is best to send them with those of their own age, to associate together in industrious habits; not to overact any part with them, but by degrees to conform them to the minor field-work. A wide expanse (more or less) of young plant canes present themselves to the sight, tacitly calling, by their appearance, the helping, nourishing hand of man, to aid them in their growth, by plucking the unwholesome weeds and grass from among them, to draw

round them the parent earth, the fostering manure, with the tenderness their infancy demands. In general it is found, that the supple hand of the negro child is best calculated to extract the weeds and grass; and the addition of a small hoe, used with caution, draws the mold to their support. A piece of young plant canes, cleaned and molded by a gang of negro children, has generally a more healthy, even appearance, than if dressed by able people, because they are more light and cautious in going through it. Few breakages take place, and the earth is not trodden by too heavy a body, into a hard contexture; a great injury to young canes. An experienced negro woman in all manner of field work, should be selected to superintend, instruct, and govern this gang of pupils, armed with a pliant, serviceable twig, more to create dread, than inflict chastisement. I should prefer a woman who had been the mother of, and reared a number of healthy children of her own, to a

sterile creature, whose mind often partakes of the disposition of her body ; who is stern without command, fractious and severe, with an indifference to impart instruction. Each child should be provided with a light small hoe, with a proportionate handle to it well fixed. These little implements should always be ground for them, when out of order, by a carpenter or cooper, and kept wedged ; they should be furnished with a small knife, and small basket each, calculated to carry dung. They should be accustomed, in planting time, with those baskets to attend the great gang, and throw dung before them in the cane-holes, which they can do expertly ; and by this they will be taught to observe the mode of planting, and putting the cane in the ground. They should be encouraged when they do their work well, and when the sun is unusually powerful, with a drink made of water, sugar, and lime-juice, such being cooling and wholesome for them. They should be minutely examined and cleaned from

chegoes ; their heads and bodies from itclt or scrophula ; which last, when discovered, they should immediately be put under the care of the hothouse doctor, physicked and rubbed with proper ointment, and not sent to work till they are cured. Their cleanliness should be exemplary, their meals always strengthened with a small quantity of salt pork or fish, and some kind of garden-stuff, such as peas or beans. And I beg leave here pointedly to remark, (which I hope gentlemen of the old school will excuse me for, as it is an old practice,) that on no account should these, or any children, be sent to gather hogmeat or cut grass, or carry hogmeat or grass to the overseer's hogstye or mule-pen. The reason for my thus formally declaring against this practice is, that in searching for, and gathering hogmeat, and cutting grass, they are obliged to go a considerable distance to gather it, through wild bushes and woods. They are incautious in thus rambling, often getting thereby bad bruises, hurts and wounds,

which turn out to be incurable sores, ever after rendering them infirm, perhaps decrepid, and pitiable creatures to the sight. Respecting cutting of grass, the evil is as much to be dreaded; for those young creatures are flighty, and unsteady in using a bill or a knife, and by some mischance may give themselves horrible cuts, equally as unfortunate, and to be guarded against. Besides, an old negro or two will always be found, who can provide a sufficiency of these things, and old weakly mules to bring them home. When any of these children become twelve years old, and are healthy, they are fit subjects to be drafted into the second gang, going on thus progressively from one gang to the other, till they are incorporated with the great gang, or most effective veteran corps of the estate. Crab-yaws they are subject to, as well as able negroes; a species of bonions, affecting the soles and sides of the feet, having a kernel deeply rooted, (and perhaps attended with an abscess) which requires caustic to eradi-

cate, and are obstinate to effect a cure of; but patience must be called in as an auxiliary remedy. The slave must be confined, his foot clothed with a kind of sandal, (called in Jamaica a sandpatta) the caustic applied, the foot kept clean with warm water and a mixture of goulard, and not turned out to work till the cure is effected, and the parts made callous against future impressions of the kind; I have no doubt but these rules will be found adviseable, reducible to practice, and that I shall not incur the displeasure, envy, or ridicule of any person, by propounding them.

Cattle and mule-boys.—This description of working slaves, (as they are termed in Jamaica,) should be taken from the great or second gangs, as found most applicable to that kind of employment. Youths from twelve to twenty years of age, and old negroes (especially Africans) should never be put to such a task, or taken to be trained up to it if possible, being too heavy, generally stupid, hard to be subdued to it, rather

ungovernable, when from under the drivers auspices, unhandy, and liable to make the cattle and mules suffer under them. Take then the tractable, docile youth, of creole birth, for most of them know how both to lead and yoke cattle, and ride and tackle mules. When work of that kind is wanted, the head cattle and mule-man has the charge and direction of them. Each should be provided with a well-appointed whip, that may inflict a smart, but not a cruel stripe on a beast, whom they should never be suffered to maltreat. They should never be allowed to ride mules up a hill. They should know, and be instructed in the best method, of dressing the stock for bruises or wounds. They should never have an excuse, that they are unprovided with a sufficiency of good pads, fine trash, and well-made ropes. Each mule-boy should be appointed to the precise mules he is to work ; his spells of mules, as to their names, should be told him. They must be made to tackle them well, spell them regularly,

rub them down, and if bruised or hurt by improper working, be punished for such misdemeanor. They should never be allowed to take home the ropes, or mule-pads, to the negro houses, (which is often done,) they being generally giddy, and negligent of them, and inclined to steal them from one another. They should be constrained to deposit them, in a safe convenient shed, built for the purpose. They should be strictly made to keep dry pads next the backs of the beasts, to prevent them from galling or giving colds or spasms to the animals. They should keep them if possible to the custom, (when a number of mules are to be worked, in carrying canes and copper-wood,) of going in a regular gang together, that the head mule-man may always have them under his eye, to prevent accidents. These are the requisites I presume most necessary in training and governing the cattle and mule-boys in their duty. The feeding of the cattle and mules is superintended by the head cattle and mule-

man, assisted by a deputy, who are all directed in this essential point by the overseer.

Watchmen, invalids, and superannuated.— Watchmen on an estate or a property in the West Indies, which are stationed on the lines, cane pieces and provision grounds, are slaves in the light of sentinels and piquets. It is indispensably necessary to have such a force in existence: they act an important part, by their vigilance, to prevent the trespassing of cattle, or the depredations of thieves; to repair broken fences in their neighbourhood, make baskets, pads, pegs, ropes, &c. As some slaves begin to decline by inevitable old age, infirmity, or disability to stand the more heavy laborious, field work, they should be allotted to those kinds of occupations which do not bear hard upon them. Something they should always have to do, to keep their minds employed, and their bodies in easy activity. This kind of duty comes within their capacity. An intelligent, trusty

man of this sort, should always be stationed on the line of the estate, and another in the negro, and white people's provision grounds, to guard with care those tempting places. The watchman who guards the lines, should be made to conform to the practice of daily bringing a quantity of bark, fit to make ropes, to the overseer's house, make his report of the state of affairs in that quarter, and regularly, without much delay, return to his post. The head watchman should be particularly attentive, that these piquets are inflexible and steady; comfortable huts they should always have; a sharp, active dog for their companion, and armed and provided each with good cutlasses, bills, and knives. No disparagement should be shewn to them, on account of their growing old or infirm: these are the dispensations of Providence, which no human art can control. Their real wants and comforts should be attended to, although they do not require, (from the nature of their employment), so much salt

provision, or frequent change of clothing, as the able field negroes, who are exposed to precarious, inclement weather and hard toil. Every watchman, no matter where placed on an estate, should always have a number of rat springes set in various directions, especially among the cane and corn pieces, which they should be subtle in fixing, diligent in daily examining, and those within the sphere of cane cultivation, ought to be made to produce them every morning at the overseer's house. Nothing is so destructive to a piece of ripening canes, as this gnawing destructive little animal ; no creature, I believe, in the scale of quadrupeds, is more prolific, or more cunning to evade pursuit, retreating to its subterraneous, mazy habitation upon the smallest alarm. It is wary of the snare, yet unceasingly voracious. All methods should then be attempted to catch, destroy, and extirpate them with safety ; men, dogs, deadly mixtures, to entice them ; even fire and water should sometimes be called in, to

assist in this undertaking. For it is not the great quantity they eat, but their roving propensity in running from cane to cane, from one piece of corn to another, nibbling and biting to the very core almost every thing within their reach. For wherever they insert their teeth, that, and the adjacent part of the cane becomes sour, discoloured, and gangrened, the vital juices are stagnated, great part of the cane is unfit to make sugar, and consequently the crop is much diminished. I am inclined to hold forth bribes and rewards, for the greatest number taken; a small quantity of rum or salt pork to each watchman, who may catch in the course of the week so many dozen of rats, keeping a daily book of account. Yet he must be cautious, that the same rats are not brought twice by the watchmen. The remaining watchmen should be scattered at proper places over the estate, where most vulnerable, and liable to attract, by the alluring sight of ripening cane and corn the prowling thief, or the browsing

beast. Repairing of fences, pad, and basket-making, &c. they should occasionally be employed at. The head watchman's business is to superintend and direct them.

The supernumerary invalids and superannuated persons, who can do any slight work, together with such middle-aged slaves as are afflicted with asthma, bone-ache, or other disorders which require occasional rest, should be put under the direction of a sensible negro of their own sort, and occupied in planting and cleaning quick-fences, either round the cane or grass pieces. Though much cannot be expected from them, yet it is best to keep them at some employment; and such work is easy and of utility, sparing the necessity of drawing off more able people to do it. Nothing is more strikingly pleasing to the eye, than well-planted, well-kept fences; they preserve, in a great measure, by their encircling, binding protection, the young plants, and the rich harvest of canes, which a kind Providence and produc-

tive nature, with the laborious art of man, brings to perfection.

Young children and infants. — It is usually the wish of the female slaves, when they become mothers, to keep the infants sucking to an extraordinary or excessive time, sometimes for three years; with the two-fold view of making the child strong, and having loitering, idle time to spend. The latter motive, I believe, is the most predominant. But whatever it may be, it is a bad practice, and injurious to the woman and the child. It reduces the woman to a state of weakness, and barrenness, and makes her prone to idleness and disaffection to work. The child becomes accustomed to too much tenderness, unsuitable to its station, giving it a fretful longing for the mother, and her scanty milk, engendering disease, and what is worse than all, often (though secretly) giving it a growing liking for the hateful, fatal habit of eating dirt, than which nothing is more horribly disgusting, nothing more

to be dreaded, nothing exhibiting a more heart-rending, ghastly spectacle, than a negro child possessed of this malady. Such is the craving appetite for this abominable custom, that few, either children or adults, can be broken of it, when once they begin to taste and swallow its insidious, slow poison. For if by incessant care, watchfulness, or keeping them about the dwelling-house, giving them abundance of the best nourishing food, stomachic medicines, and kind treatment, it is possible to counteract the effects and habit of it for some time, the creature will be found wistfully and irresistibly to steal an opportunity of procuring and swallowing the deadly substance. The symptoms arising from it are a shortness of breathing, almost perpetual languor, irregular throbbing, weak pulse, a horrid cadaverous aspect, the lips and whites of the eyes a deadly pale, (the sure signs of malady in the negro) the tongue thickly covered with scurf, violent palpitation of the heart, inordinate swelled belly, the legs

and arms reduced in size and muscle, the whole appearance of the body becomes a dirty yellow, the flesh a quivering, pellucid jelly. The creature sinks into total indifference, insensible to every thing around it, till death at last declares his victory in its dissolution. This is no exaggerated account of the effects and termination of this vile and hateful propensity. As I said before, the mothers of sucking children should be allowed a pint of flour or meal, besides sugar weekly from the store, as those children not only require additional nutriment, but are inclined frequently to laxative habits of body, which fresh flour or corn-meal corrects. I would never (except sickness intervenes) leave a child more than fourteen months sucking, but generally no more than twelve months. During that period it should undergo inoculation for the cow or small-pock; the former in preference to the latter. When well of this disease, and having arrived at the before-mentioned age, the child should be weaned,

taken from the mother, and put under the care of a well-disposed orderly matron, whose particular province should be to watch, clean, feed, extract chegoes from its feet, hands, &c., and present the children at the overseer's house before him every day, where there should be a nourishing pot of soup, with boiled roots, and vegetables, prepared, and divided with impartial distribution to each child; once a month worm medicines should be administered to them, and a dose or two of salts or castor oil. When the children are three years old, they should be put under the care of another well-disposed old woman, who should follow the routine prescribed to the former matron, as to keeping them clean. She should keep them from three to five years old, in a little playful gang about the works, so that in any bad weather, they could soon seek shelter under the different sheds and stokeholes. Each child should have a little basket, and be made somewhat useful by gathering up fallen

trash and leaves, and pulling up young weeds, so as to keep them stirring, and out of the way of harm. These children likewise should have a plentiful pot of soup, with vegetables boiled for them every day, distributed to them respectively, before the overseer or bookkeeper, with a wine glass of acidulated sugar beverage, and a taste of good rum to each, as an enlivener. Their minds should always be kept cheerful, and the parents' fears allayed, by every attention to their growing welfare. The younger children that have been weaned, together with the weeding gang, should have worm medicines every month. The practice of giving cabbage bark to such children as a vermifuge, (an old custom,) is pregnant with danger. It is a native of the woods in Jamaica, the coat of a certain tree, though not of the beautiful tree bearing the cabbage on the top of its stem. And although not unpleasant to the taste, yet it is deleterious, so that great caution is necessary in giving the dose, and appor-

tioning it to the age and strength of the patient. It is powerful in its effects, more by its dreadful deadly qualities, than for expelling or eradicating worms. A much safer and more effectual remedy in case of worms, or to be given periodically to children, is the cowitch taken internally. It is likewise indigenous in Jamaica. It grows upon a creeping, spreading vine, in some retired dell or glade, generally where it meets support by adhering to underwood. Pods of it hang in clusters on the vine, which are covered by a fine, brown furry spicula, of the most acute, subtle nature, yet perfectly safe, when mixed with honey, thick sirup or molasses. A certain portion of it, what may be scraped off six or eight pods, to two quarts of sweets, will be sufficient to give to thirty or forty children, with efficacy and safety. This dose should be repeated the following day, and after that, some glauber salts or castor oil should be given to each child the next day, to clear the bowels. Wonderful is the effect of

it in dislodging the clinging worms from the stomach and bowels. Its tormenting spicula adhering to, and insinuating itself into them, they drop their leechy hold, descend to the lower intestines, there cling in writhing agony together, and are expelled by the power of the cowitch in half lifeless, and dead multitudes from the body of the patient. The child feels no unpleasant effects from taking the cowitch internally, when well prepared, by its being mixed with the sweets, till the spicula is separated, and appears like fine, thin small hairs, through the honey or sirup. Neither is it any way dangerous thus taken. The only caution necessary is, to prevent the child from putting its hand to its mouth while receiving the dose, and hinder any of it from falling on the skin, which can be easily done, by placing a cloth over the neck and breast of the child. But some of the children are so good and tractable, that they require nothing of the kind, but open their mouth, and with freedom swallow it. If any hap-

pens to fall on the skin, some lime-juice and a little water will soon clear it away.

The treatment of children afflicted with the yaws, and likewise old people, as it is a disease which has tried the skill of the faculty with little success, I cannot presume to say much concerning its mode of treatment or cure. Time, and, I believe, the strength of a good constitution, may work this desirable end, or partially alleviate or remove it. In the middle-aged and old it is terribly obstinate. Its nauseous and loathsome appearance, its frightful ravages, its twitching pains, extending to the very marrow, brings with it a deformity of bone and flesh that strikes horror. No wonder then that tremulous fear of such contagion will make any one fall back with frightful timidity, and sometimes leave the afflicted wretch at a distance, within the circle of a provision piece, to sustain life, and let nature perform the rest. Children are more able to recover from this evil than elderly people. Cleanliness, simple, nutri-

tious diet, without meat, or salt animal food, is a regimen to be observed with children in this case; alterative medicines, cleanliness, and the same kind of diet with the middle-aged and old. A commodious hut, at a distance from other habitations, should be set up for such patients. The children should not be allowed to associate with elderly people so diseased, as the rancour of the disease in the old may add to the infection, and prolong the cure of the young. Bathing, in a sun-warmed shallow stream, will purge the skin and pores of impurities, give suppleness to the stiffened limbs, banish languor and drowsiness, and may be the means, in progress of time, (especially with the young,) of undermining the disorder, and restoring long-wished-for health to the desponding and afflicted. The younger a child takes this disorder, after it is weaned, the better. The sooner we find the cure effected, and the constitution relieved; and, having got over this disorder, the small-pox, the meazles, and the whooping-cough,

the negro child has passed through the diseases attendant, and incidental to its youth; the parent is rejoiced, the overseer and owner are confident they have a healthy, promising, valuable subject upon their list, and little to fear, except what may precariously happen.

I hope this account of the treatment I presume best calculated to manage slaves, may be found acceptable, of easy acquisition, no way derogatory to the more refined, or better formed opinion of others; and find its way for adoption, with those interested in West India capital.

CHAP. III.

CHOICE AND TREATMENT OF STOCK.

THE choice of stock (such as cattle and mules), either for work or breeding, is a leading feature in the principle of good plantership. Much depends upon it. Much is expected from an effective force of well made, strong, healthy stock of this description, or a succession (when wanted) produced from prime cows and mares. The crop is to be taken off the field by them, brought to the mill, and ground there perhaps by these very cattle and mules; carried to the wharf many miles distant, timbers and copperwood brought to the works by them, and manure produced and made from them equal to what may be required; and that with such celerity and safety, that these things not only may be

done with due despatch, but the stock comparatively be in good condition. The steer or spayed heifer, before they are too old, or too much reduced, should be turned to the fattening pasture, and sold when good meat to the butcher, thereby sustaining but a trifling loss in the prime cost of the beast, and having some years of their work and manure for the care and feeding of them. The kind of pasture the stock has been bred and reared upon should be looked to. In my opinion, those of a good breed, which have been brought up on well kept common pasture or savanna grass, are much preferable for work, than those which are reared on artificial guinea grass. They are found hardier, their flesh more firm and compact, more docile to be broke to work, less liable to fall off in flesh while at work, more easy to be recovered and restored to health and flesh when reduced, and their hoofs more flinty, tougher, and better able to endure travelling over stony river-course roads. Their meat, when fat,

sweeter, better, and weighs heavier. To these qualifications may be added, that they are generally a few pounds cheaper. The same observations hold good respecting mules in a great measure; whereas the cattle and mules brought up on Guinea grass are more tender, bloated, liable to tire upon any pinch of work, are often stubborn, restive, and lazy, soon lose their frothy flesh, are difficult to regain it; heavy in their tread, with soft pervious hoofs, which often split, and contain deep-seated crab-yaws and ground-itch. There are, indeed, multitudes of fine serviceable cattle and mules taken off of Guinea grass pens, tongue steers especially. The proprietors and overseers of these inclosures take great pains to have their cows and mares crossed, almost every two years, by young bulls and jacks of the best breed, sparing no cost in the attainment. They are so pampered by frequent change of pasture, and ranging of extensive runs, that they attract by their bulky, plump, sleek appearance, the anxious

purchaser, who is in need of stock for immediate work. Yet with all their polished, desirable looks, they have not the stability of those that have been bred on, and taken off common pasture, when their breeding has been taken as much pains with as those bred upon guinea grass pastures.

The next thing to be considered, is the form of cattle and mules for the particular work they are designed for. The steer and spayed heifer for work should be firm, active, and straight in their limbs; straight-backed, their hoofs should be close, compact, and of a middle size; their chests broad and capacious, with a full muscular neck, light neat head, with straight full horns; their eyes clear and sprightly, but not treacherous or wally; great girth of ribs, especially near the shoulders; the shoulder large, and well knit to the chest, neck, and ribs; close and full in the loins; sturdy, yet active in their hind legs; with small ears of quick perception in hearing; with no warts, crab-yaws, or ticks. Such are the

requisites I presume to set forth, as forming the bodily abilities of the working steer and spayed heifer. I shall now take the liberty of reflecting a little on an old custom, much acted upon in Jamaica, which is, the bigotted pertinacity (if I may so call it), of refusing to purchase some working cattle on account of their color; and often choosing weak, deformed, and ineligible stock, because they are of such a color. Superstition carries people a great way out of the reasonable track. The ignorant, credulous slave may pretend that something ominous will attend, some misfortune will follow, buying cattle of a certain color. It consists not only in their own barbarous, ignorant notions, but in their fondness for a certain colored beast themselves. But for a proprietor or overseer to be thus guided, thus predisposed to cast away the best-made steer, because he is not brindle, red, or black, is only to thwart his best interests, and bring losses and disappointments on himself. Even in

the choice of tongue steers, so much to be depended on for their strength, steadiness, and size, they are squeamishly captious in this point, and will rove from pen to pen, in search of cattle to answer their favourite colors, spending their time, leaving good serviceable cattle unbought, and perhaps purchasing and bringing home with them, washy untractable stock, which will not stand the trial of a crop. I will not pretend to assert, that cattle of the regular colour of brindle, red, or black, may not be excellent; and when the qualities of strength, symmetry, youth, and docility are united, they are indeed admirable. I only wish to guard some people against the prejudice of color in choosing cattle, and committing a crime against good judgment, in the selection and appointment of steers or spayed heifers for work, and allowing the butcher, by this oversight, to kill thousands of good, sturdy, efficient cattle in the course of the year.

In order to entice nature to produce

cattle of regular colors, such as brindle, red, or black, where a number of breeding stock are to be kept up, for the planter to draw his working stock from, I would propose to make choice of young well-made bulls, and prime well-made three year old heifers of those colors. We generally find nature inclines, to a continuance of the color of the parent beast. Sometimes she is sportive, though not the less kind and valuable in her favours, bestowing beauty by varied colors in the calf. Why then reject the offers of her bounty, why cast a slur on her best efforts, by spontaneously giving well-made stock of brilliant varied hues, which are treated with scorn and contempt, when assigned to, and mangled by the butcher in their prime, before a trial is given to the efforts of their labour. Having the option of the most approved color, the make of the bull and heifer comes principally to be noticed. The bull should rather be long-sided, of massy, well knit, active, straight limbs,

have an extensive wide chest, straight and broad back, till within a few inches of the verge of the shoulder, then the back should rise gradually, with great strength of muscular flesh to the contact of the shoulder and neck, exhibiting power in those parts. The neck should be of a middling length, very thick, sinewy, a little bowed, and conjoined to the back, shoulders, and head with freedom. The head not heavy, clear and sprightly eyes, but not wally; the horns springing in a gradual curve from the head, short, light, and spiral; small acute ears, the hind quarters plump and sturdy, with close, full loins, and the hoofs middle sized, close and hard. He should be amorous and fecund, but not ferocious.

The heifer for breeding, should be tall, but not long-legged; her height should be included in her depth of shoulder, girth of rib and barrel, and large buttock. She should have neat active legs, chest large and full, straight back, small head, and moderate well-shaped horns, small acute

ears, full, sprightly, clear eyes, but not wally, thick pliable muscular neck, broad full rump, and hind quarters; she should be wide behind, her paps or spins, at a good distance from each other, her udder plump, not skinny or stiff, and capable of considerable distension. Both bull and heifer should be free from the evil excrescences called warts, because if once their blood is infected with this disease, they are not fit to breed from, the cow seldom rearing a strong, healthy calf, and the disorder becomes hereditary.

Respecting mules best calculated for work, whether Spanish or Creole, their color is not much attended to. Indeed little variation occurs in that particular in this animal. It is generally a dark brown, a dun, or mouse colour, sometimes grey and black; superstitious connoisseurs do not dwell much on choice of color here, though they might with as much reason form their objections. I would choose either for draft or back carriage, the young

truss-made mule, not too tall, with stout, active, well-appointed limbs, small head, straight visage, quick, clear, sharp eye without blemish, light-necked, sinewy, and a little bowed, large chest, deep strong shoulder, straight and rather short backed, close loined, wide behind, not cathammed or sprawling in their gaits, small, hard, and black hoofs, light pendant main and tail, with small sharp ears, no ticks, or swelled joints, diseased fetlocks, or blemishes. These are the qualifications, I think, when combined, that will turn out, and ensure a good, serviceable, working mule.

Now for the model of the mares and jack to produce such from, if nature is propitious in permitting it. Middle-aged mares, if healthy and well-made, of a good breed, &c., will do as well, and if not better to breed mules from, than young mares. But I will here premise, that I by no means approve of breeding animals of this kind from old, infirm, weakly, disordered, blind or decrepit mares. This is greatly to be

lamented, and is too much practised. For, sooner or later, the misfortune of buying stock produced from such beasts, will fall on the owner or purchaser. Whether old, weak, or disordered, the evil lies dormant in the mule for some time, and unexpectedly will break out. Neither is it sound policy in the pen-keeper, who is to get his livelihood by keeping breeding stock of this sort. For a great number of the mules dropped from mares of this description, turn out unfortunate, the dams sometimes not being able to rear them, and if they do, they are a symbol in general of what they sprung from, being weakly, ill-shaped, apparently half starved; and after a great deal of pains taken with them, scarcely pay the owner for the grass they consume, and very often are sold for half price to some stroller, or left on their hands, to be an ornament to a well stocked pen, or rather an ugly disparagement of it. Young mares are too timidly coy, reluctant, restive, and shy of the jack, which gene-

rally terminates by their being cruelly bit, or the jack severely maimed, else the groom has uncommon trouble with them. But it sometimes happens, that people are so wise as first to let the young mare to the jack, to prepare her for the future embraces of the horse. This unnatural practice is attempted to be defended, on the score of making them more capacious in their genitals, and enlarging the sphere of their abdomen. But it must be remembered or understood, that the generative parts of a prime jackass, are as large as those of a horse, and when the mule cub is just dropt by the mare, it is as large as a foal that is just born.

The mare to breed mules from, should not be more than fourteen hands high, nor less than twelve. She should have a small well-shaped face and head, small upright sharp ears, fine, clear, and full eyes, well pupilled, straight, firm, and neat limbs, no way cathammed; with small, black, hard hoofs, full, wide, prominent chest; slender,

but muscular neck, a little bowed ; strong deep shoulder ; rather a short body ; straight, fair back ; large barrel ; close between the hip and short ribs ; large round buttock, wide behind, with free, easy, bounding gait ; a temper no way irascible ; gentle and free from tricks, without mange or spavin. The jack should be as large an animal of that kind as can be procured, but proportionate in his limbs. It is said those of an iron grey colour produce hardy cubs, but that is doubtful. Spanish or Maltese jacks, which have been imported into Jamaica at a great expence, have turned out well, producing excellent stock ; but they are often very old when they arrive, bruised, battered, and ignorantly taken care of in so long a passage : emaciated, half-dead creatures, that require the utmost care to recover them, and bring them round. Months often elapse with patient expectation, before any one can venture to bring them in contact with the mare, impotently, yet viciously striving to

generate. A jack should be ten, eleven, or twelve hands high ; his body of moderate length ; his head and joles in proportion with his neck ; his neck thick, of great strength, and rather long ; his ears not heavy, yet long, sounding well, and both they and his mouth flippant ; his mouth small, well furnished with good teeth, especially the grinders ; straight, smooth, easyback ; neat, active, strong limbs, standing sturdy, yet nimble ; large chest, close-loined, round plump buttock. The breeding jack should either be stabled, or put into a close pasture, with high, firm walls and gates to it. They, or he, should be regularly corned once a day at least ; should have pure water to drink, and not suffered to cover more than one mare daily. The mares should be put to him in season, and attended by an experienced groom. A proper covering pit should be made for the mare to stand in, with a surmounting stage for the jack to stand on. They should be daily taken and led out to exercise, kept well

cleaned, and by no means allowed to stay out in bad weather, but comfortably stabled, foddered and littered. No other jacks or stallions should be suffered to come close to him, to prevent the mischievous effects of their savage, cruel quarrels. This is the specimen of a mare and jack, that I humbly beg leave to propose as the fittest to breed from, to produce a stock of working mules.

I come now to lay before my reader, the best mode I think should be adopted for the feeding and treatment of working and breeding stock, belonging to an estate in Jamaica. Every estate or coffee plantation should be provided with guinea grass inclosures, independent of or separated from the common pastures, cane pieces, coffee pieces, or provision grounds, to answer both as nurseries for reduced, lame, or fattening stock, and to draw provender from, for the mule stubble, and cattle pens. These pastures or guinea grass pieces, should never be eaten down so bare, but that they could

recover, and present another sufficient growth of grass in six weeks or two months. It would be better to have a number of small inclosures of five or six acres each, than very large ones, so that the cattle may be changed frequently, the grass not much trodden upon, the cattle kept well filled, the flesh they have collected thereby not let to dwindle or be lost, and the pastures have a sufficiency of water in each, or somewhere contiguous to them. The overseer, the head cattle and mule-man, should not fail to pay attention to this, and in crop time, when the head cattle and mule-man may be working stock, the overseer engaged in a variety of business, and not able to pay much attention to the grazing cattle, one of the subordinate young white men (the bookkeeper) should superintend this duty. According as any of the cattle or mules become reduced, thin or lame, they should be first minutely examined, cleaned of ticks, their bruises and sores dressed, and then turned into one of these

inclosures, and daily dressed, till their sores are well, and their skin sound. They should be replaced by such cattle and mules of the working class, as may be then, or from time to time, found sufficiently recovered to be sent to work, as were grazing there, for the benefit of their health. Breeding cows and young unbroke cattle, as they undergo no work, and are intended to supply a succession of hardy stock, and have all day to feed and range over the pastures, should be penned at night, on one of the worn-out cane pieces, separate from the working stock, which pen should be well secured, littered, and provendered with plenty of guinea grass or long cane tops. If the weather is very rainy, they should be turned into a close pasture by themselves. A great advantage arises to an estate, by penning the breeding stock on poor worn-out cane pieces. They make abundance of fine manure on the spot, and save the trouble, delay, and expence of carrying it there. The urine sinks deep

into the ground, restores in a great measure the expiring stamina of the earth ; and the breeding cows with their calves, and young stock, by being thus used to penning, forget the wildness of their nature in that country, are kind, docile, and easily caught to dress or milk. The young stock, as they come of an age fit to work, are with little trouble broke or trained to it. I would not pen or stable the breeding mares, and young unbroke mules, except in very bad weather, and then in a covered place ; because, when stabled in that country, they are very near each other, huddled together, become restive, vicious, liable to kick and bite, greedy to eat what may be in the rack and manger, thereby excluding many from any benefit of it, producing often abortions, which reduces the mare for months ; or perhaps a mule is turned out in the morning with a broken leg or thigh. In bad weather, to prevent cramps, colds, starvation by cold, staggers, &c. (which cattle are so liable to,) penning or stab-

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ling should be ventured upon. I would at all times (except in very bad weather) especially in crop time, pen the whole of the working cattle in one or other of the poor worn out cane pieces, or thrown up land, as then plenty of long cane tops can be had, with guinea grass for provender, which will make abundance of manure on the spot. The pens should be well fed, with plenty of guinea grass and cane tops mixed; and as they are made and composed of mortice posts with rails, they should be moved every eight or ten days to another meagre spot, till the manuring of such cane piece is in a great measure complete. As those cattle are regularly spelled, they have a good portion of time to graze, and when penned plenty of herbage and tops for the night to eat, which makes them drop much dung, keep their flesh, and have a hearty sleek appearance. But this must be observed, that no reduced cattle should be penned, but as soon as they shew symptoms of weakness, poverty, &c.

they should be consigned over to the guinea-grass pasture till well, strong, and in full flesh.

It is a received opinion in Jamaica (which is invariably followed), that the calf should be allowed to suck and follow the cow till it is nearly twelve months old, or as it is commonly called in England and Ireland, reared at the cow's foot. I have known them to be permitted this indulgence, even to within two or three months of the cow calving again; which they do on the principle of making the calf strong, and not stinting its growth, forgetting that most of the calves reared in England and Ireland are uniformly taken from the cow shortly after they are dropt, penned up, and stall-fed with new milk, till they can graze, and the cow be regularly twice a-day milked. Yet these cows and calves, thus treated, exhibit a more healthy, vigorous, plump appearance in general, than what are reared in Jamaica. The calf, when grown up, is

bulky and athletic, and the cow much more docile than those of that island; gives a greater quantity of milk; seldom falls off much, (except by excessive milking or starvation,) and breeds the faster. To this may be added, that fewer misfortunes happen to the calf by accident or bad weather in pen-feeding. He is alert, strong, healthy, fat, and tame when turned out in a grass-piece. Other circumstances may be started by the breeder of cattle in Jamaica, that they would find it difficult to inure the slaves to such a method, and their proneness to stealing the milk would be a prevention. But the fact is, they have never taken the trouble, or tried the utility of such a plan, save now and then in case of the dam dying, or being lost, they would attempt to raise the calf by this experiment. But much oftener the hapless orphan is consigned to the knife, to give a luxurious repast. The disorder in this respect, I believe, arising from the prevalence of custom, is so rooted that scarcely any argu-

ment would be effectual to wean them from it.

Another misfortune very often happens in Jamaica to young calves, which is, when the cow happens to calve some days before she is discovered, or brings (as they say in that country) her calf out, the horrid putrid maggot fly, so pestiferous there, attacks its tender raw navel, bores into it, and deposits a multitude of embryo maggots, which soon attain life, and eat, penetrate, and corrupt the abdomen with shocking and amazing quickness, so that when the poor staggering innocent is found, it is often so mortified that all the pungent stimulants that can be applied will fail in either killing or extracting the vermin; and the creature dies, a shocking victim of agony, in a short time. It is, therefore, incumbent on those who have the management of them, to have a breeding-book kept, in which should be entered the time the cow goes to the bull, and the time she is expected to calve; and be watchful of that

time, not to let her remain out any long space, to catch or imbibe vermin herself or the calf. They should be particularly careful every day to have them dressed with chopped green tobacco, mixed with a little spirit* of turpentine and fine white lime, to destroy the vermin, and have the parts washed from any impurities of congealed, corrupt blood, with warm water, instead of lime-juice, and then anointed with a little train oil. I should prefer housing the cows every night, for some time before they are expected to calve.

The working steers and spayed heifers should be classed according to the kind of work they have to do, whether mill or wainage; the light, smart, active young steer and spayed heifer, to be appointed for mill-work, and light cartage about the works or cane-pieces; the strong, large, middle-aged, steady drawing steer, for waggonage to the barquadier; but the mill cattle out of crop, when in good order, and when a large shipment is to be made

with despatch, should be mixed with the road cattle for assistance, taking care to place them as middle cattle in the draft, but neither as tongue or leading cattle. I would never put the road cattle, intended for carrying the crop to the wharf, to any other kind of work, so much depending upon their veteran, steady efforts, when in need of them; for when they are imposed upon, disappointment succeeds, the overseer is vexatiously embarrassed, the head cattleman incurs blame, (though perhaps faultless,) the mill cattle brought in, perhaps improvidently, to assist, and all are reduced in point of strength and condition. Some work or other is put to a stand, and a length of time elapses before the cattle are effectually recovered. I think an attempt should be made in Jamaica to change the old established custom of binding the working cattle together with heavy, monstrous, wooden yokes and bows while at work, and that well-stuffed collars, covered with sound durable leather, would be found

preferable. The collars should have strong draft rings fixed to them, with all necessary chains and cross-bars appended; the wain or waggon should be fitted with strong shafts, instead of a tongue, that should ply up and down upon strong iron draft-hooks, and be fixed to the body of the waggon, or a draft-bolt. The ease of the beast in the draft is as much to be attended to as any other point, to prevent him getting cross or restive, acquiring a painful, stiff, swelled neck, or galled shoulder, which very frequently happens when he is encumbered with those heavy yokes and bows. He would be more at liberty in the collar to use his strength, without bounding aside, to the injury of his driver or fellow-steer, the side and centre chains preventing him. Moreover, they would draw more even, and with greater ease, the heavy carriage, with its ponderous load, with the aid of good strong swinging shafts, well fixed with draft-irons, than by the neutral tongue, which often shakes the tongue-steers nearly

breathless. A sufficient number of draft cattle should always be kept on every estate to allow of regular spells both for road, cane-piece, and mill-service. It is a gross error not to do so, as the loss in the long run, by a niggard strength of cattle, is severely felt by the proprietor. The road-cattle should never be worked more than every other day, whatever less they may be; and they should be well fed, and dressed of their bruises. Nor should the mill or cane-piece cattle either, but with this difference, — in the mill and cane-piece cattle, the former should be spelled and well fed every three hours, and the cane-piece cattle every six hours, paying attention to their bruises. Any description of working cattle should never be strained, or forced against their known strength, which often happens, through the merciless ardour of the cattle-boys, and the poor beast is paralysed and bereft, by such treatment, of all power of its hind quarters, seldom recovering its strength, and generally becoming a dead

weight on the property for its support; or after two years of precarious life in the best of pasture, is sold half fat to some neighbouring butcher, for a small compensation. The same caution I will beg leave to give, respecting the overloading of mules. But here the loss is a total one, even sometimes tempting the owner to shoot the creature, to put so wretched an object out of his sight. So parsimonious are some employers, especially resident agents, their memories so defective, or so tedious in granting what is absolutely necessary, that they will both see, and let the working cattle, and mules, on a property, dwindle away more than one half of their usual complement by overwork, old age, casualties, or the like, before they will comply with the repeated requests, and admonitions of the overseer, for a fresh supply; and with a surly rebuke in the end, blaming him for the mortality, perhaps discharging him for it, when their own supineness, craft, or stinginess was the occasion

of it. They will give a small spell, perhaps, to sustain nearly the entire of the future work, they drooping likewise by being imposed upon. But where breeding cattle and mares are kept on an estate, this seldom happens: several facts of this kind I have known in Jamaica. One that happened about eleven years ago on an estate, which had a great part of its best plant canes to cut, with some excellent ratoons, to make the crop up. So reserved was the resident agent, so skilful in keeping his mind to himself, so pompous in doing mischief, vainly thinking he was doing good, that the overseer, after months of reiterated application to him, to have a spell or two of young fresh mules brought to help to take off the canes, and save the old mules from premature death, never even once obtained a reply to his entreaties, or a beast to assist him. A great part of the canes were left uncut, a prey to rats, rottenness, topheavy from suckers, and stagnated, and dried up of

their juices. He discharged the overseer, without assigning any reason for so doing, sent a novice in his place to manage the estate, discharged him in a few weeks, and succeeded him by a prodigal overseer; and at last, by a variety of management, in the course of a year abolished, by his mere sign manual, the studied concerted plan of the former overseer, (who had established a fine field of canes for a present and a succeeding crop,) and threw the estate back in its accustomed, expected crops for years. One piece containing ten acres of fine plant canes, the former overseer had partly cut down, promising three hogsheads of sugar per acre, not far from the works. This piece of plant canes, presented to the astonished eye of the well bred planter the disfigured appearance of six or seven growths of canes upon it, besides part of the high canes upon that cane-piece not cut down, after a space of four months, from the commencement of its cutting. What regard could such an agent have for

the interest of his constituent? This estate lies in the centre of a well watered vale, in the parish of St. Mary, and is distinguished for its hospitality to strangers, who pass from the south of the island to Rio Nuova Bay, or Salt Gut.

In dry warm months, in Jamaica, the insect called the tick is very abundant, sticking to the cattle, and breeding on them in clumps, burying their heads underneath the skin, drawing and obtaining nourishment, by sucking the blood of the beast, and thus pestering, infecting, and distressing it. They adhere principally to the inside of the ears, and over the body; in horses and mules to the inside of the ears and fundament. When the beast is observed to have them, they can be easily banished, before they get too large, by rubbing the part they cling to with a little train oil, and the next day washing the part with salt-beef pickle, salt and water, or if near the sea, by swimming the cattle in it once a day for some time. The dunder

or lees of the liquor still may destroy them. Cattle never look plump or sleeky when possessed by these vermin, therefore they should never be suffered to grow to any size on them, for sometimes they make them look all raw and scabby, from their voracity to feast on the best qualities of their blood. The dysentery, and purging called the scour, often attacks cattle in that island, either from grazing on young unripe grass, or some morbid matter in their intestines. They should in that case be housed for two or three days, have a strong dose or two of glauber salts, mixed with some sweet oil, and the fat of herring pickle. They should have, twice a day, some parched corn given them in a little water, plenty of sound ripe grass to eat, and be comfortably littered at night. The litter, with what grass may be left, should be taken cleanly and carefully away the next day, and put out of the reach of other stock; for this disorder is infectious.

The proper method of working and

feeding mules, and tackling and relieving them when sick and sore, should always engage the attention of the overseer, or those under whose care they may be. Breaking them to back carriage is easily performed, or to that of draft; yet caution must be used, to have good strong tackling for so doing, and other mules in company. The load should be very moderate for some time, and they should be put to work in the centre of a triple, or three mules, the leading mule inducing them to follow, and the rear one keeping them steady, and free from tricks. In a day or two they will be tolerably gentle and manageable. A principal thing to be attended to is always to have a sufficiency of good, well made straddles, crooks, pads, ropes, and fine trash ready; the straddles to fit the back well over the pads, of good length, and lined with seasoned, tough, light boards to the end, to which should be strongly attached, seasoned, wide, guavee crooks, properly bored, with strong cross

sticks wedged thereto. Some hackled plantain trash (but tow would be better) should be strewed thickly over the spine of the mule's back, before the pads are put on, to prevent rubbing and galling. No less than three well-made platted pads should be put on each mule, that has back carriage to undergo. As soon as an under pad begins to fall to pieces, or gets wet, it should be replaced by the next pad to it, and a new one got as an overhale. This should never be neglected, else a stubborn sore back will ensue. The pads should be large enough to extend from the hip to the neck, the breadth to the extremity of the ribs. There should never be less than two girths for each mule. They should be platted at least two inches broad, where they are to bind on the belly, be strong and pliant, especially on that part. There should be a strong wanty, of good length, likewise platted as the girths, to each mule; and a well-made halter for each mule, with platted noseband, headstall, and chokestay. Those ropes can

be made by a handy negro watchman or invalid, of seasoned bark, found in the woods of Jamaica in great plenty, and a regular sufficient supply kept up at little expence. Mules thus equipped for back carriage, will carry a considerable load, of one hundred and fifty weight of canes, with ease and safety, except the mule-boy, through neglect or villainy, causes some misfortune, for which he should be punished. When the mules are spelled at dinner, or any other time, they should be well rubbed down, their backs examined, and if found swelled, bruised, or galled, immediate application should be had to the requisite dressings for relief. Strong singlings, or low wine to wash them with where swelled, or bruised, should be used, and a little spirits of turpentine, oil-nut leaf, and fine white lime, mashed and mixed together as a plaister, to dress scratches, cuts, or galls with, and the part so affected be touched with train-oil to keep the flies off. If they have bad sores or swellings, they

should not be worked till they are well. I would recommend boiled beef pickle, now and then to rub their backs with, as it renders callous and tough, those parts most liable to be affected by friction or weight. Care should be taken, on no account to allow the mule-boys or their drivers to ride them up hill; for such a burthen comes on the foremost mule, added to the struggle, of dragging the followers in his triple, along with him, as tires, or soon breaks his wind. Exertion should be made in the day-time, to have a sufficiency of canes brought to the mill to last all night; and the mules must not be worked late at night if possible; for it is mostly at those unseasonable hours they get bad sores and colds, and may be, as is often the case, stripped of their tackling by the mule-boys, without being rubbed down, or their wounds attended to. The mules which come in from work, either at night or in the day, should always be put into a division of the stable by themselves, where the rack and manger

should be well filled with fresh grass and cane tops, else the poor hungry animals, by being huddled together with the rest, come to short commons, or often nothing to satisfy their appetite with, every eatable being devoured by those who were penned up hours before them. There should be always four divisions, with full room for the stock, in a mule stable, and dry grass or litter of some description, to strew the bottom of the stable with in the evening; but this is very seldom done. It will pay very well for any trouble and expence, by the manure it produces, which should be taken clean out every day, and heaped up in a convenient manure pit. Mules carrying canes to the mill, copper-wood, or country staves, should always be spelled every six hours, and abundance of provender kept in the rack and manger for them. Those which are spelled in the day-time, after being rubbed down, cooled, and dressed, should be turned out to graze; for it gives them great refreshment to have

liberty to tumble and rub themselves, besides that picking fresh herbage is grateful to them.

On no account should the mule-stable be suffered to accumulate a heap of dung ; it should be daily cleaned out. The pens being covered in, the heat of the climate, with the warm fume issuing from a number of beasts, is sufficiently to be dreaded, in causing and spreading distempers among them ; but that of the accumulated heat, and putrid vapour of a dung heap, in a close mule stable, is pregnant with the most pernicious, sometimes fatal consequences. Their hoofs are kept soft by it, and their blood in a ferment from its noxious sweating qualities. Some of the beasts are more liable to disease than others. Some are not free from it, though apparently looking well. Others have lurking disorders, which are partly discharged by their excrements ; making a compound of vile materials to cause pestilence, which when once epidemic, carries off great numbers. I would

therefore recommend the utmost cleanliness in a close mule pen, or even in an open one. As I said before, both in and out of crop, the mule stable should be well supplied with wholesome fresh provender ; but in crop time, when heavy laborious work requires stronger nourishment for the beast, plenty of fresh cane tops should be chopped small, so as to fill the manger. These should be strewed over with a small proportion of salt, a good deal of fresh mucous cane skimming thrown in, and if plenty of Indian corn on the estate, a pail or two of it ground, and mixed with the cane tops and skimming. This will keep up the strength of the mules. But care should be taken, that the manger be cleared every day of any remnants of this, for fear of its becoming sour, and causing thereby bellyaches to the beasts. The rack should always be filled with fresh ripe grass, and care should be taken, that the mule tackling be put up every night in a covered place to hang on, and not carried to the

negro houses. The disorders of mules are various, but the cure of them is little understood, or only partially known. A book of well approved farriery should be kept on every estate, and the instruments requisite for that profession, such as phleams, syringes, &c. Bellyaches are very frequent with working mules, especially in crop time, which is principally brought on by their either eating or drinking sour cane tops or cane skimmings, or from the crudeness of their provender in general, their natural liking to bite at any thing that has the appearance of an eatable agreeable to them. This protracted spasmodic affection is often so terribly violent, as to cause the death of the beast in a few minutes. They swell to an enormous degree, rolling and groaning in agonising convulsions, till they nearly burst. They shew symptoms of this disorder very soon after being attacked by it. They paw and scrape the ground with one of their fore hoofs; droop their head nearly to the ground, incline their head often to

one side and the other, with seemingly painful solicitude; heave their loins and belly quick, and have a constant inclination to lie down and roll about. When any of these signs are discovered, they should be immediately stripped of their tackling and led out, run smartly about for a few minutes, then copiously bled, and their head tied up high to a strong rail or beam, and drenched with either six or eight ounces of glauber salts, dissolved in a pint of warm water, or six ounces of castor oil, mixed with one hundred and twenty drops of laudanum, half a pint of warm water, with two ounces of common soap dissolved in it, and half a pint of rum. Care should be taken not to let the animal lie down, till the symptoms subside. It would be best to keep it walking about till the drench operates, or the beast is apparently recovered. It should not be put to work for a day or two, but be kept in the stable, to recover from the exhaustion and weakness brought on by the disorder, and have no-

thing but fresh ripe grass to eat, some ground corn with a little salt in it, but not much water. Another disorder they are subject to, is the mumps, which swells their head and joles frightfully. This likewise may be of serious consequence, if not taken in time, to prevent the glands of the throat and lungs being infected. The beast should be bled, his head wrapped up in a warm cover, as far as the contact of the throat; his joles to the ears rubbed or washed twice a day with warm fomentations, melted hogs-lard, bees-wax, and spirits of turpentine mixed together, and made warm, till either the swelling goes away, or suppuration comes on, forming a soft tumour, which, when ripe, should be lanced to let out the humour, and kept open by a tent, in order to discharge the virulent matter which flows to that part, giving natural relief to the animal. When the cure is effected by its drying up, and the swelling disappearing, then the orifice may be closed and healed up; the animal should be phy-

sicked, have warm corn-mashes, be kept in a stable apart from other beasts, led out twice a day to exercise, if the weather will permit, and be supplied with soft, fine ripe grass to eat.

The farcy often attacks mules in Jamaica, and is generally brought on by over-heating, the blood becoming surfeited, bad and grumous. It may be occasioned by bad unwholesome diet. It is easily cured if early attention is paid to it, otherwise it will run through the whole system. The button-farcy first appears, by the veins of the legs, thighs, and breast, exhibiting a number of excrescences and tumorous knobs. The animal should be bled two or three times, not profusely, taking frequent notice of the increase and decrease of the disorder. It should be drenched with opening medicine two or three times, taking sulphur bolusses, which may both drive out the disorder, and sweeten the blood. The tip of some of the largest pustules should be taken off with a sharp knife, and a coarse

grain of corrosive sublimate introduced into them, and then closed with a little mould candle-grease. The corrosive sublimate will penetrate to the adjacent pustules gradually, and what with small bleedings, sulphur bolusses, occasional physic to clear the bowels, and wholesome nourishing food, the beast will soon declare its recovery to health, by shewing a clear skin, and the arteries, veins, &c. being reduced to their proper state. As this disorder is infectious, it is best not to allow the diseased beast to keep company with others till it is cured. The water-farcy is very obstinate, odious, and often fatal. The whole mass of blood is morbid corruption, which issues from the eyes, ears, nose, and surface of the body. A horrid scrophula spreads over the whole body. Nothing but alteratives, frequent bleedings, and wholesome food, will work a cure. Time will often gain the ascendancy, with those auxiliaries, and restore the creature to health; but I have known some fine stock to die of this disorder, a shocking

emaciated spectacle, of putrid, coagulated matter.

The glanders is another dreadful disease, which mules are frequently attacked with. This is rendered more formidable by the imperfect knowledge which most people have of what may effect its cure, or stop the deadly contagion, which spreads with amazing rapidity, making people panic struck as to its ravaging consequences, or how to stop it. The fundamental cause of this dire disorder is variously assigned, but I believe it is principally brought on by neglected colds, strangles, or mumps, which at last attack the glands of the throat and lungs, pouring through the nostrils a continual stream of thick humour, which at last preys with such virulent effect upon the membranes of the nose, as to rot and disunite them, causing the bones of that organ to drop and fall to pieces, with mortified, putrid, contagious malignancy, and in a day or two putting a period to the life of the ill-fated creature. So epidemic,

it is alleged, is this disease in horses, that the animal must be removed to a considerable distance, that the very air may not waft the disease to others. When a confirmed glanders is pronounced to have seized a beast, the death-warrant of shooting goes forth against it, and the animal with the distemper is consigned to the flames; the neighbours are alarmed, the public cautioned, the very laws of the island are brought in force to stop the contagion, by proscribing every beast found in the public road possessed of it; giving liberty to any person to put an end to its life. I have known on one estate two sets of mules (composed of fifty each) to be carried off by it. At last the mule-stable, with all its apparatus, mule-tackling, &c. were ordered to be burned to ashes, that no trace of infection might be found. Like a plague, the disorder did not stop, for victims, though not so numerous, fell a prey to it. The scourge at last ceased, leaving a melancholy fearful impression on